THE NEW
# INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • MAY 18, 2026 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 20 • LATE CITY EDITION

**Community-led spring cleaning**

People take part in 'Panzath Festival', to collectively clear weeds and silt from the renowned '500 Springs' at Qazigund village in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on Sunday. The '500 Springs' are a cluster of freshwater springs located around the Qazigund village | PTI

Art of Giving

Estd. 17th May 2013

#ShareToShine

KiiT | KISS KALINGA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Organisation in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic & Social Council (UN-ECOSOC)

13th Edition

International Day of

ART OF GIVING (AoG)

17th May 2026

Theme: Share to Shine (Through Volunteerism)

Celebrated across

6 Continents

190+ Countries

28 States & 8 UTs

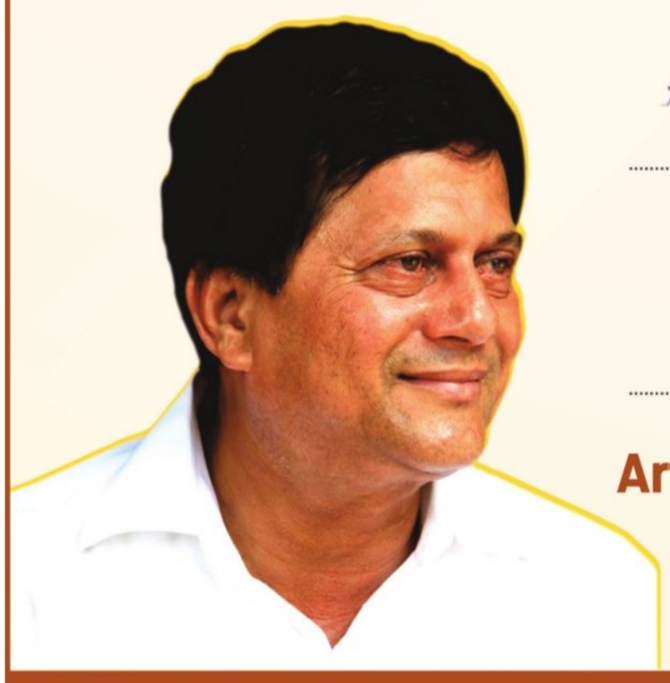
All cities & towns

50,000 Places

30 Districts &

20,000 Places in Odisha, in every block & panchayat

25 Million people impacted



Art of Giving is a simple philosophy of life that spreads the message of peace, happiness, friendship and harmony among all.

Prof. Achyuta Samanta
Founder, Art of Giving
Founder, KIIT, KISS, KIMS

Koel Campus, KIIT, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India – 751024 info@artofgiving.in.net artofgiving.in.net 0674 – 2741671, 2743271

**Sri SIDDARAMAIAH**
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

ಸಾರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ
TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

# TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT
# THREE YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT
# MILESTONES

**Sri D.K. SHIVAKUMAR**
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

## INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Construction of **15** new Regional Transport Offices at a cost of **₹70.12** crore I Construction of 6 additional new RTOs in progress at a cost of **₹39.25** crore.

## Automated/ Computerised Driving Test System (ADTS)

Establishment of Automated Driving Test Tracks at **45** different locations across the state at a cost of **₹266.00** crore

## High Security Registration Plates (HSRP)

Installation of High Security Registration Plates for over **59** lakh vehicles across Karnataka

## Geo-Fencing

Implementation of Geo-Fencing based m-Vahan Fitness App across **66** RTOs I Fitness Certificates issued only after successful inspection

## Automated Vehicle Inspection Centres

Construction of Automated Vehicle Inspection Centres at **12** locations under the DBFOT model and **20** locations under the BOO model under the PPP scheme is in progress

## Smart Enforcement

Installation of AI-based cameras at **7** toll plazas on major national highways at a cost of **₹5.65** crore and at **80** additional locations at a cost of **₹70.00** crore is in progress

## Centralized Printing Facility (CPF)

Microchip-based RC and DL Smart Card system with centralized printing facility I Karnataka ranks **4th** in implementation of this project

## Heavy Vehicle Driver Training Institutes

Heavy Vehicle Driver Training Institutes established at Bengaluru, Dharwad, Kalaburagi and Mangaluru at a cost of **₹46.00** crore I Construction of institutes at Ballari, Vijayapura, Nagamangala and Shivamogga at a cost of **₹21.00** crore is in progress

## Contactless / Online Services

Sarathi - **15** Contactless Services
Sarathi - **16** Non-Contactless Services
Vahan - **9** Contactless Services
Vahan - **12** Non-Contactless Services

## Retro Reflective Tape

Installation of **Retro Reflective Tape and Rear Marking Plates** in vehicles to reduce accidents

## Seizing Yard

Seizing Yard established by KSRTC at Chandapura, Bengaluru at a cost of **₹1.48** crore I Construction of Seizing Yards at Devanahalli, Bengaluru and Mangaluru at a cost of **₹7.58** crore is in progress

## Karnataka Motor Transport and Other Related Workers Social Security and Welfare Board

The Transport allied Workers Board is presently functioning under the Labour Department I Approval has been obtained from the Cabinet for bringing it under the Transport Department. It will be brought under the jurisdiction of the Transport Department after obtaining approval in the upcoming Legislative Assembly I Provision of scholarship assistance, accident compensation, natural death compensation and funeral assistance, marriage assistance, maternity benefits for beneficiaries/spouses, educational assistance for children, provident fund, housing and old-age home facilities

## Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF) Policy

Implementation of the RVSF scheme for scrapping old polluting vehicles I A total of **11,368** vehicles scrapped so far

## New Software for Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certificate

Inspection of **5,95,000** vehicles and issuance of certificates

## Driver Drowsiness & Attention Warning System (DD & AWS)

Installation of Driver Drowsiness & Attention Warning Systems in **300** KSRTC buses at a cost of **₹2.50** crores for early identification of Driver drowsiness / behaviour to avoid accidents

## Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD) & Emergency Button Project

Installation of VLTD and Panic Button system as per Central Government - MORTH ( Ministry of Road Transport & Highways) guidelines in **2,25,560** public service vehicles to enhance safety of women and children I Establishment of Command and Control Centre at the Office of the Transport Commissioner at a cost of **₹22.00** crore.

Hon'ble Transport & Muzrai Minister **Sri Ramalinga Reddy** participated in the programme of Road Safety Campaign

As enshrined in our Constitution, - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

**Commissioner** Transport and Road Safety
1st Floor, TTMC Building, 'A' Block, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru - 560027
www.transport.karnataka.gov.in Email: transcom@nic.in Tel.No.: 080-22214900

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### CBSE CUTS RE-EVALUATION FEES TO ₹100 AMID ON-SCREEN MARKING ROW

**Students can now have their answer sheets rechecked or obtain scanned copies for ₹100. At present, these cost ₹500 and ₹700, respectively**

### BOARD TO ISSUE FULL REFUND IF MARKS INCREASE

"We will charge Rs 100 from any student who wishes to view their answer sheets and a separate fee of Rs 100 if they wish to have their papers validated," Sanjay Kumar, Secretary of School Education Department, said. Students can get the answer to a specific question re-checked for Rs 25. If the marks increase, then the amount paid for re-evaluation will be refunded

### EDUCATION MINISTRY DISMISSES OSM CONCERNS

- It comes amid concerns about On-Screen Marking (OSM) affecting the scores of Class 12 students. Dismissing such concerns, Kumar said special attention was given to ensure that marking remained accurate
- OSM is a digital evaluation system in which teachers assess scanned images of answer sheets instead of checking physical copies manually

**13,000**

**CLASS 12 PAPERS MANUALLY CHECKED DUE TO LEGIBILITY ISSUES, KUMAR SAID**

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives Royal Order of the Polar Star, Sweden's highest honour for a foreign head of government, from Crown Princess Victoria | PTI

## INDIA DEEPENS ENGAGEMENT WITH EUROPE

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDIA stepped up its Europe outreach, elevating ties with the Netherlands to a strategic partnership, unveiling a sweeping five-year roadmap, and expanding cooperation across critical technologies and clean energy, while also advancing high-level engagements in Sweden focused on industry, security and innovation.

India and the Netherlands on Saturday signed 17 agreements covering semiconductors, critical minerals, renewable energy, migration, healthcare and water management, underscoring a growing convergence between New Delhi and European capitals on resilient supply chains and advanced manufacturing.

"We are today elevating India-Netherlands relations to the level of a Strategic Partnership," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, calling the Netherlands "one of India's most important partners" and urging convergence of Dutch expertise with India's "speed and scale."

Later, Modi arrived in Gothenburg for the Sweden leg of his European tour, where his aircraft was escorted by Swedish Air Force Gripen fighter jets in a symbolic gesture reflecting expanding defence ties.

He was also conferred the "Royal Order of the Polar Star, Degree Commander Grand Cross" by Crown Princess Victoria, Sweden's highest honour for a foreign head of government, in recognition of his contribution to bilateral relations. Modi dedicated the award to the "historic ties" and "warmth and affection" shared between the two nations.

At the European Round Table for Industry in Gothenburg, Modi stressed that closer cooperation between democracies was critical in the current global environment. He also thanked Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson for Sweden's support following the terrorist attack in Pahalgam last year.

> **We are today elevating India-Netherlands relations to the level of a Strategic Partnership. I am confident that the friendship ... will continue to grow stronger in the years to come**
>
> Narendra Modi, PM

**Support for Guj chip fab**

A key outcome of PM's Netherlands visit was a semiconductor deal between ASML and Tata Electronics to support India's fabrication ecosystem in Dholera

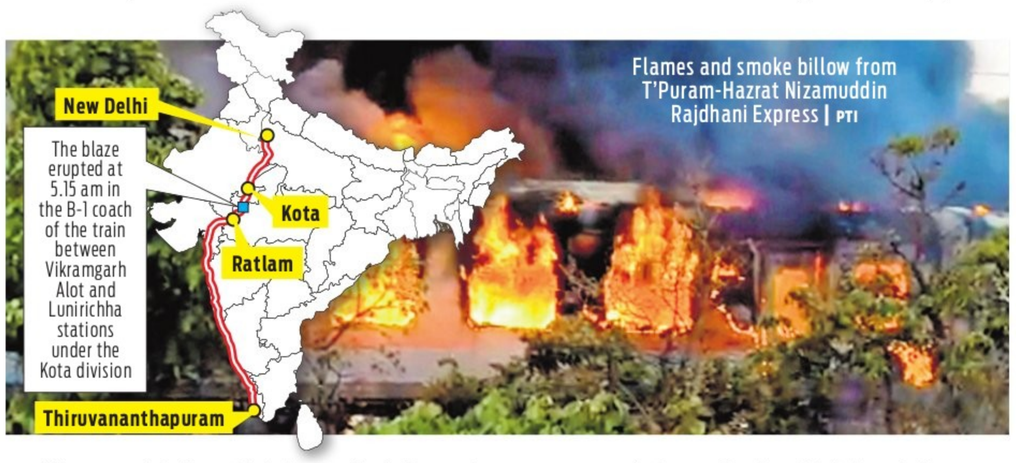
**Tagore at the forefront**

Modi and Swedish leader Ulf Kristersson exchanged gifts commemorating Rabindranath Tagore and the civilisational and intellectual ties between India and Sweden

# Close shave for 68 after Rajdhani fire

Two coaches of Thiruvananthapuram-Delhi train catch fire near Ratlam early Sunday; Railway orders probe

ANURAAG SINGH, RAJESH ASNANI & RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Bhopal/Jaipur/New Delhi


New Delhi
The blaze erupted at 5.15 am in the B-1 coach of the train between Vikramgarh Alot and Lunirichha stations under the Kota division
Kota
Ratlam
Thiruvananthapuram
Flames and smoke billow from T'Puram-Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express | PTI

IT was sheer hysteria on board the B-1 coach of 12431 Thiruvananthapuram-Hazrat Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express at 5.15 am Sunday when a blaze erupted in the AC 3-tier coach between Vikramgarh Alot and Lunirichha stations in Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam district, gutting two coaches and disrupting rail traffic on the busy Mumbai-Delhi corridor for seven hours. No casualties were reported, officials said.

The fire broke out approximately 90 minutes after the train departed Ratlam Junction at 3.45 am. The fire, which originated in the B-1 coach, rapidly spread to the adjoining luggage-cum-guard van, West Central Railway's Chief Public Relation Officer Harshit Shrivastava said.

All 68 passengers in the affected coach were evacuated within 15 minutes. Railway authorities, who were alerted by the guard and loco pilot of the Rajdhani, immediately cut overhead electric supply.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager of Kota Division Saurabh Jain said the timely action by train staff saved passengers' lives. The two coaches were detached from the rake, and the train resumed its onward journey at 9.45 am, reaching Kota at 1.15 pm.

As many as 13 trains on the route were affected.

Affected passengers were given an initial compensation of ₹5,000 at Kota station. Several of them refused it, demanding FIRs instead. "I have lost my year's earnings as my luggage has been gutted," said a passenger.

The cause of the fire is being probed. Railway sources suspect a short circuit, possibly linked to the air-conditioning system or a charging point.

The Ministry of Railways said on Sunday the West Central Railway has set up a high-level inquiry committee to investigate the fire incident.

# 14 new faces in Satheesan's 21-member Kerala cabinet

K S SREEJITH @ T'Puram

KERALA chief minister-designate V D Satheesan on Sunday announced the names of those who will be part of his new cabinet ahead of the swearing-in ceremony scheduled for Monday 10 am in Thiruvananthapuram.

The 21-member cabinet will have 14 new faces, including two women ministers. Veteran Congress leader Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan will be the new speaker, while Shanimol Usman has been proposed as deputy speaker.

While Satheesan will have control of the finance, law, ports, public administration and other unallocated departments, Ramesh Chennithala—who was a contestant for the CM post—will head the home and vigilance ministries.

Other likely allocations include Sunny Joseph (revenue), A P Anil Kumar (health), K Muraleedharan (electricity and devaswom), M Liju (exercise), P C Vishnunadh (cooperation and culture), T Siddique (forest), Roji M John (transport), Bindhu Krishna (women and child welfare, dairy development and social justice), O J Janeesh (youth welfare), K A Thulasi (welfare of SC/ST and backward classes), P K Kunhalikutty (industries, IT, mining and geology), P K Basheer (public works), K M Shaji (local self-government), N Shamsudheen (general education), V E Abdul Gafoor (minority welfare and waqf), Mons Joseph (water resources and irrigation), Shibu Baby John (agriculture), C P John (labour) and Anoop Jacob (food and civil supplies).

V D Satheesan | R Chennithala

**Mid-term formula**

IUML has got five berths. After two-and-a-half years, IUML's Parakkal Abdulla is likely to replace party leader V E Abdul Gafoor. Similarly, Kerala Congress's Anoop Jacob may be replaced by Mani C Kappan of the Kerala Democratic Party after two-and-a-half years

The line-up, reached after two days of intense political manoeuvring by various factions and allies, shows the Congress has kept 12 cabinet berths and important portfolios while UDF allies have had to compromise on their demands. Sources in the Congress said the portfolios would be formally finalised soon.

Notably, the K C Venugopal faction maintained an upper hand in the selection of Congress ministers.

# T'kuru man kills teen daughter over marriage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Tumakuru

A wedding broker allegedly murdered his teenage daughter and buried her along a rivulet in Nimbemaradahalli village in Sira taluk of Tumakuru district. The chilling murder took place on April 16 and came to light on Sunday.

Police arrested Thimmarayappa on charges of murdering his daughter Meghana (17). The body will be exhumed on Monday under the supervision of a taluk magistrate.

The victim, a second-year PU student, was engaged to her mother's relative's son, and the marriage was to be arranged after she turned 18 years old. The bridegroom's family had already made arrangements and bought a wedding sari and gold 'mangalsutra' for Meghana, according to police.

Thimmarayappa and wife Nirmala had a dispute over the wedding. The accused had been opposing the proposal that resulted in frequent quarrels at home over the past few months.

After one such quarrel, Meghana went missing on April 16. Nirmala, a daily wage worker, returned home in the evening and called her, and found her mobile phone was switched off. She turned suspicious and lodged a missing complaint with Kallambella police.

After investigation, police arrested the father, who confessed to the crime during interrogation. On that fateful day, he had taken Meghana to an open well in a farm and pushed her into it. Even as she was begging for help to come up, he hit her with stones and ensured that she died. Later, he retrieved the body from the well and buried it by a rivulet. Interestingly, he had accompanied Nirmala to the police station to lodge a missing complaint.

The couple have a son younger than Meghana. Kallambella police have taken up further investigation. **P7**

# Robbers snatch ₹26L from pvt firm staffer on Mysuru e-way

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mandya

A gang of robbers intercepted a private company employee's car and looted Rs 26 lakh on the Bengaluru–Mysuru Expressway near Maddur town on Sunday evening. Govindaraju, a Mysuru-based employee of a private company, was travelling from Mysuru to Bengaluru around 7pm to deliver the cash he had collected from another company when the robbers waylaid his car.

The accused, who were allegedly following him in a Toyota Innova, intercepted Govindaraju's Hyundai i20 near Aishwarya Convent on the outskirts of Maddur. They smashed the car window, threatened Govindaraju with deadly weapons, and escaped with Rs 26 lakh in cash.

Govindaraju alerted Maddur police immediately after the robbery. Circle Inspector HS Naveen and his team visited the spot, conducted an inspection, and registered a case.

Under the direction of Mandya Superintendent of Police Dr VJ Shobharani, a special team has been formed to trace and arrest the accused.

**BASHING THE KINGS**

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) Venkatesh Iyer (73 no) plays a shot during the IPL match against Punjab Kings in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh, on Sunday. RCB outclassed PBKS by 23 runs, becoming the first team to enter knockouts | PTI | **P15**

# BDA eyes ₹6,000 crore revenue from regularisation of 1.1 lakh properties

INDRA S @ Bengaluru

BANGALORE Development Authority (BDA) expects to generate around Rs 6,000crore in revenue if around 1.1 lakh unauthorised buildings identified on BDA land across Bengaluru are regularised in the 100-day window beginning June 15, during which a 50 per cent reduction in regularisation charges will be offered.

BDA officials told *TNIE* the exercise mainly pertains to lands acquired or notified during the formation of BDA layouts or other site formations, where buildings had come up despite acquisition proceedings.

Officials explained that in several cases, land could not be developed due to engineering and technical complications, allowing existing structures to continue. Such properties are now being considered for regularisation under the revised scheme.

According to BDA, failure to regularise such properties leaves landowners at a disadvantage, as the properties continue to be treated as unauthorised and remain outside official government records, restricting sale, transfer and other legal transactions.

The official stated that there were also instances where construction activity continued later through former owners, subsequent buyers or informal land transactions.

The regularisation scheme was first introduced in 2020, but received a poor response. While the BDA had anticipated nearly one lakh applications, only around 600 property owners applied. Officials at the BDA attributed the low response from property owners to the fee structure under the earlier scheme. **P4**

**DEEP CUTS**

| | |
|---|---|
| 5% for 200-600 sqft | |
| 12.5% for 600-900 sqft | |
| 20% for 1,200-2,400 sqft | |
| 25% for 2,400-4,000 sqft | |

**EXPRESS READ**

**1 Indian killed, 3 hurt in drone attack on Moscow**

New Delhi: A massive overnight drone assault launched by Ukraine on Sunday killed one Indian national and injured three others in Russia's Moscow region as the conflict between Moscow and Kyiv witnessed one of its most intense aerial escalations in recent months | **P9**

**Army airlifts kidney for soldier's wife**

Chandigarh: The wife of a soldier received a new lease of life after the Command Hospital, Chandimandir, in collaboration with the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences at Rohtak, facilitated the retrieval and rapid air transportation of a kidney from a brain-dead road accident victim | **P10**

# NCB busts cross-border drugs syndicate, arrests Myanmar-based kingpin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi / Guwahati

THE Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has arrested the Myanmar-based drug kingpin of a major transnational trafficking network operating through India's northeastern states, the agency said on Sunday.

Thancintuang alias Chintuang alias Tluanga was arrested from Delhi following extensive surveillance, intelligence inputs, coordinated interstate coordination, and sustained follow-up operations.

Thancintuang, a resident of Bulfek in Myanmar's Chin State, was wanted in multiple cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. His involvement in illicit trafficking networks is estimated at approximately ₹120 crore.

He was the primary supplier of methamphetamine and heroin routed through Mizoram, Manipur, Assam and Tripura into India and Bangladesh, the NCB said. He was also the prime accused in a 2024 NCB case involving the seizure of 14 kg of methamphetamine and 2.8 kg of heroin in Mizoram's Khawzawl, and a 2025 case involving the seizure of 49.1 kg of meth in Aizawl.

According to the federal agency, the cross-border drugs syndicate used multiple trafficking routes, local facilitators, transport coordinators, hawala channels, and financial handlers for smuggling and distributing methamphetamine and heroin.

Several members of the syndicate and close associates of Thancintuang were nabbed by the NCB earlier. "Financial investigation into the cases led to identification and temporary freezing of multiple bank accounts linked to the accused persons having substantial suspicious transactions connected with drug trafficking proceeds," the NCB said.

**Second Myanmar-based drug supplier to be arrested**

This is the second Myanmar-based drug supplier arrested by NCB in 2026. In March, Lalhmingsanga of Zokhawthar, also a Chin State resident, was arrested in a separate operation

**ALMANAC TODAY**
• **Monday:** 18.05.2026 • **Year:** Parabhava • **Ayana:** Uttharayana
• **Ritu:** Grishma • **Masa:** Adhika Jyeshta • **Paksha:** Shukla • **Tithi:** Dwitheeya 9.00 pm
• **Nakshatra:** Rohini 2.19 pm • Moon in Mithuna Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

**WEATHER**
MIN 23°C | MAX 33°C
**FORECAST**
Showers late. Overcast

Sunrise 05.53 am
Sunset 06.38 pm
Moonrise 07.01 am
Moonset 08.31 pm

CLERICAL ERROR

# BMTC 'overpays' staff, tries to retrieve amount

Depot pays 26 months' arrears instead of 11

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**
@ Bengaluru

NEARLY 100 conductors at the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation's (BMTC) Yeshwanthpur Depot-26 mistakenly received the full 26 months' wage revision arrears instead of the first 11-month instalment due to a data entry error during salary processing.

Clarifying the issue on Sunday, an official at the BMTC said the error occurred after a billing clerk inadvertently entered incorrect data while processing arrear payments released under the government-approved wage revision package.

> **The discrepancy came to light immediately after the amount was credited and depot officials informed the central office, following which corrective measures were initiated**
>
> A BMTC official

The BMTC official said the discrepancy came to light immediately after the amount was credited and depot officials informed the central office, following which corrective measures were initiated. The corporation stated that conductors who received excess amounts were contacted and requested to return the additional money.

According to the BMTC, the repayment process is being carried out through official departmental accounts linked to the Chowdeshwari Temple Bus Stand office, with receipts being issued for every transaction to ensure transparency.

The corporation also dismissed allegations circulating on social media, claiming that the entire 26-month arrears rightfully belonged to employees and that money was being collected unofficially without receipts. The BMTC also said all recoveries were being handled under official supervision with proper documentation.

Officials said excess amounts had already been recovered from 35 employees and credited back to the concerned depot account. The remaining recovery process is expected to be completed smoothly by Sunday evening, BMTC added.

# Yellow Line proves a boon for commuters to E-City

**ANUBHAB ROY** @ Bengaluru

IN the wake of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to the nation to reduce fuel consumption as part of austerity measures, a transition into work-from-home mode might turn out to be easier for the corporate sphere of Bengaluru. Unlike most of India's other urban spaces, the city already has a large number of companies that operate under the hybrid model.

The setting up of the Yellow Line Metro corridor by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is, in this regard, of dual consequence. On the one hand, it has incentivised many companies in Electronics City to mandate working from office, while on the other hand, the innate independence from traditional fuel that the metro service enjoys offsets the concerns of travel to some extent.

Rama NS, an advisor at Electronic City Industries Association, said, "There are two prominent metro stations on the Yellow Line that serve commuters to Electronics City. Many companies are incentivising their employees to use the metro service by providing last-mile connectivity via shuttle services that ferry employees to and from their offices."

According to Rama, while there is no standardisation across the board, multiple companies – especially technological companies – provide a hybrid model as optional.

"Some companies mandate two or three days of work-from-office while others mandate working from office throughout the week," she said.

According to Rama, manufacturing companies in Electronics City, most of which are small-scale, cannot afford to provide a work-from-home option to their employees due to the nature of the work and operational exigencies.

It is also an erroneous notion to imagine the absence of technological companies beyond Electronics City. An employee who works at a tech company in Marathahalli said that his organisation was yet to acknowledge any intention to allow the work-from-home option.

"We have not been informed of the introduction of the work-from-home system. To my knowledge, only one company operating in our complex allows this option," he said.

Another employee who works from Bengaluru for a Gurgaon-based non-profit organisation said that her work for the company had always been remote, and thus by definition, flexible, allowing her to not be as affected as many daily commuters in Bengaluru would be.

SPREADING THE LIGHT

Artists perform during the 13th anniversary of Art of Giving at Gandhi Bhavan in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

# Hennur-Bagalur road work hits businesses

**KALYANI WARRIER**
@ Bengaluru

THE white-topping work on the Hennur–Bagalur Main Road, which commenced at the end of 2024 and is still ongoing, is causing hassles for businesses operating from areas along the stretch. The project aims to provide better connectivity to the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

The work that was in progress between Geddalahalli Railway Gate and Faran College at Chikkagubbi, a stretch of about 5.5 km, is now stalled, affecting hundreds of business establishments along the roadside.

A business owner who runs a service station in the area said that the number of his customers dropped by about 80% after the road works began. For nearly two months, there minimal profits made, forcing his staff to take a leave. He said many businesses switched to providing home deliveries, but he cannot provide such a service.

Mathews Jacob, a frequent commuter on the stretch, said, "The authorities and contractors do not communicate to the people about the inconvenience. Only a board is placed apologising for the inconvenience caused. The traffic is not diverted properly and the road is blocked at a few places. There is not enough staff to deviate and coordinate the traffic movement."

The project has not only impacted the business activities but also poses a health concern. "Construction has increased the dust pollution, and there is a lot of debris on the road. Metal rods sticking out in places and pedestrians are at risk to get injured if they are not cautious enough," said Ajith Kumar, a resident in the vicinity.

A Bengaluru North City Corporation official, who is in charge of the locality, told *TNIE* the road work is scheduled to be completed by July, while the footpath will be completed by October.

The work between Geddalahalli Railway Gate and Faran College at Chikkagubbi is now stalled, affecting hundreds of business establishments | EXPRESS

# Current charges applied to buildings built before 2008

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ALTHOUGH the scheme applied to buildings constructed before 2008, regularisation charges were calculated using the much higher 2020 guidance value, making the process financially unviable for many applicants.

Residents had raised concerns that they were being asked to pay present-day rates for properties occupied more than a decade earlier. BDA officials said the revised fee structure had been designed keeping the interests of landowners in mind, and was intended to encourage wider participation.

To improve response, BDA reduced the regularisation fee by 50 per cent, describing it as a "reconciliatory measure". Officials expressed confidence that the move would significantly increase applications during the fresh 100-day window.

# Corporation urges citizens to keep the city clean

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**
@Bengaluru

TO raise public awareness of waste segregation at the source, water conservation, the single-use plastic ban, plastic recycling, maintaining the cleanliness of public places and other initiatives, Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) organised street plays in its jurisdiction. The programme organised under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 at three locations--Lal Bagh West Gate, KFC Bus Stop in CV Raman Nagar and behind the MG Road Metro Station on Church Street on Sunday.

BCCC Commissioner Rajendra Cholan, who witnessed the play at Church Street, appealed to the public, organisations, NGOs, and resident welfare associations to join hands with the corporation in this initiative.

The general public, including the Commissioner, took an oath to transform Bengaluru into a clean, beautiful and healthy city, by conserving water, using water judiciously, following the ban on single-use plastic and segregating waste.

### A dengue awareness drive

A dengue awareness programme was also organised by the Krishnarajapuram Urban Primary Health Centre under the jurisdiction of Bengaluru East City Corporation at the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) Central Workshop–02 located in Dooravani Nagar, in observance of National Dengue Day, on Sunday.

Comprehensive health education regarding dengue fever was provided to more than one hundred workshop staff members, where senior health inspector Gururaj explained in detail the symptoms of dengue fever, available treatment, preventive measures, and the role of the public in dengue control.

Awareness was created about the mosquito life cycle. Practical guidance was also provided on identifying mosquito breeding spots and methods to control them.

An intensive larval survey was conducted, including inspection of water drums used for fire safety, buckets, tyres, and various solid waste materials.

# BECC to unclog drains before monsoon

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**
@ Bengaluru

LOKHANDE Snehal Sudhakar, the additional commissioner (development) of Bengaluru east city corporation, who conducted a field inspection of stormwater drains (SWD) in the Kalkere and Hoysalanagara areas under the KR Pura Assembly constituency on Sunday, has instructed officials to remove silt, mud, waste materials and vegetation from all stormwater drains before the onset of the monsoon to ensure the smooth flow of rainwater.

Sudhakar on Sunday inspected SWDs near Kalkere burial ground, Pete Krishnappa Layout, NPS School, Abhaya School and those in Hoysalanagara 3rd Main Road, 13th Cross Road and 13th A Cross Road. He gave directions to expedite and commence development works at already identified locations for the improvement of kaccha storm water drains in Kalkere and Hoysalanagara under World Bank-funded projects.

Sudhakar, who saw encroachments at some locations along the drains, asked officials to verify the actual dimensions of the drains as per the revenue department survey maps and take corrective actions. He also witnessed black spots near several stormwater drains, resulting in blockage and gave instructions to clear them and take preventive measures to avoid recurrence. He said that the city corporation is committed to providing improved civic infrastructure for public convenience.

### S-VYASA holds yoga programme in Jigni

BENGALURU: Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA) organised a large-scale yoga programme at its campus in Jigani on Sunday as part of the 100-day countdown series to the International Day of Yoga 2026. The event was conducted in collaboration with Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga and witnessed the participation of around 650 people in the Common Yoga Protocol session. The programme also had seminar on 'Yoga for Health and Wisdom'. **ENS**

EXPRESS READ

### Bidadi farmers meet Deputy CM over GBIT

BENGALURU: A day after JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda announced his fight against the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT) project in Bidadi, alleging that farmers' lands are being snatched for the project that he termed a "state-sponsored scam", a delegation of farmers met Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday. Farmers, part of the 'Byramangala, Kanchugaranahalli Gram Panchayatgala Raithara Bhoo Hitharakshana Samiti', met the Deputy CM in Bengaluru and expressed their concerns relating to the GBIT project. They submitted a petition to protect the rights of the farmers. The Karnataka Cabinet in April proposes to develop the township spanning 7,481 acres at a cost of ₹18,133 crore. The farmers have been continuing their protest for more than a year at Byramangala Main Road, against the government's move to acquire their fertile agricultural land for the township. Shivakumar, who heard the farmers, said that appropriate directions would be given to the officials concerned within the legal framework. **ENS**

## Horoscopes By Holiday

**HOLIDAY MATHIS**

**18th May : Mars and Venus Change-Up Mars and Venus stir it up by moving into new signs on the same day. Mars takes a trip through the sign of the bull where the attainment of money and material resources follows bold action. Venus aligns the domestic realm, bringing beauty, nourishment and new ideas to the place where many feel most themselves. Success starts at home.**

**ARIES** (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Directness is your gift today. You'll get quickly to the heart of things -- not by making piercing observations or asking incisive questions but by radiating an inviting warmth that has them dropping their defenses.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 20 - May 20)
Every time you finish a job, you get a little better. You keep sharpening your skills and refining the result until your product and style are unmistakably yours. The evidence is in the reorder.

**GEMINI** (May 21 - June 21)
You're not trying to impress anyone; however, you may not be able to help that. When you show up and do your thing, it fixes the problem. Of course they're going to be appreciative. The acknowledgment will be sweet.

**CANCER** (June 22 - July 22)
You might be doing a job better than you ever have, but it's still taking the same amount of time. This is part of mastery -- devoting yourself to the process no matter how long it takes.

**LEO** (July 23 - Aug. 22)
In some ways, you have the life that you imagined you would, and in other ways, you don't. It's those "other ways" that motivate you now. There are some dreams that haven't and shouldn't die.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
You're intellectually well aware of the neutrality of the day's events -- none of which are inherently positive or negative, all of which are open to interpretation. But tell that to your emotions. A strong stance is forming.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
Consistency beats intensity. Occasional brilliance fades between appearances. Regular, solid work builds recognition and trust. Show up on a schedule people can count on, and let the body of work make the case.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
Someone gives you part of what you need but not all, and this keeps happening. It leaves you feeling like you're settling. Today is the day to make a change, whether you clarify, inspire or cut bait.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Is there a way to make yourself happy and please them at the same time? Maybe. Although, today, the outcomes are beyond your control. Choose one aim and do it very well. Either path has the potential to spread happiness wider.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
Your spirit radiates and others understand -- not just humans. The animal world responds to your gift for communicating beyond words. Dogs trust you, birds linger, and even bees and butterflies seem to sense something welcoming in your presence.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
Who you know and how you treat them matters a lot to your professional trajectory. You don't have to fawn or be overly agreeable. You only have to reach out once in a while in the spirit of warmth and generosity.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
You'll win with what looks like a lucky guess. It's more than that. You sense patterns and signals. When you act on that knowing, there's an excitement that stirs the moment and invites a run of good fortune.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle ⬇

| | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | 9 | 3 | | 5 | |
| 6 | | | | | | 8 | | |
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| 7 | | 1 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 2 | | 8 |
| | 5 | | | | 2 | | 3 | |
| | 7 | | 5 | | | | | |
| | | 2 | | | | | | 9 |
| | 8 | | 1 | 7 | | | | |

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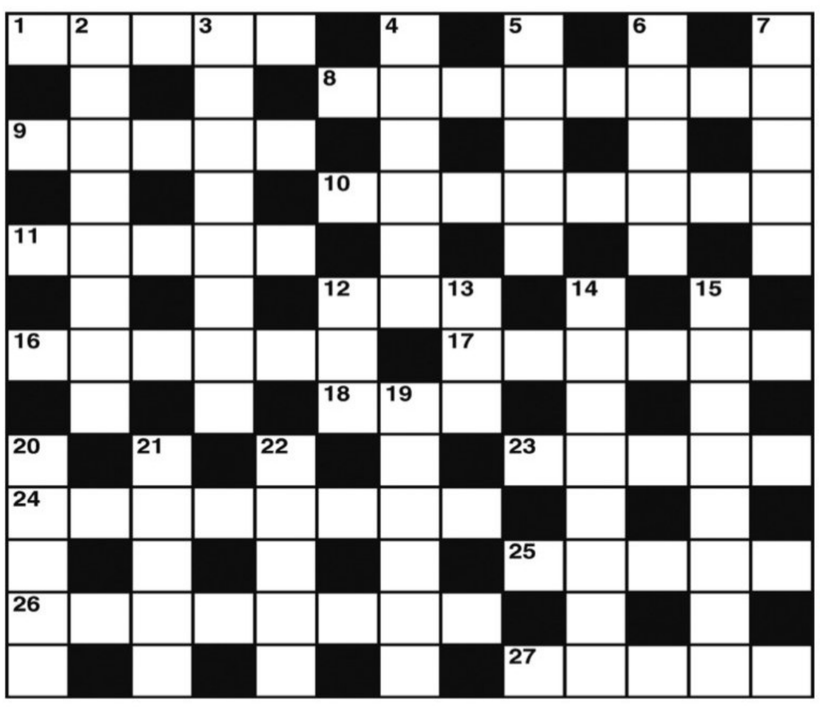
| 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| 2 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 3 |
| 9 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| 5 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 1 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| 6 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 2 |

**SUDOKU HARD**

**TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE**

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



**CROSS WORD**

**ACROSS**
1 Daughter and friend make trifle (5)
8 I stop wandering and I take on a job (8)
9 Clubs that place cruel restrictions on members? (5)
10 Type of book difficult to endorse (8)
11 Feel strung in getting what is in fashion (5)
12 To point but not with a finger (3)
16 I enter amended total (6)
17 A number in the arena competing in track events (6)
18 It can be pricked even after being pierced (3)
23 What one thinks about a bad side (5)
24 Command a slave to serve one first (8)
25 Brown ape is playing around (5)
26 Hearty leaders (8)
27 Present a degree (5)

**DOWN**
2 Bitterness shown by Army CO in trouble (8)
3 Bird to settle on a perch perhaps? (8)
4 One may appear at dinner in a jacket (6)
5 Woman of fifty-one had become unsettled (5)
6 Indian ruler; the last character in principal uprising (5)
7 This creeper could be poisonous (5)
12 Part of the eighteenth hole on the golf course (3)
13 Stray from the proper route (3)
14 Dictates one way to prove gold genuine (4,4)
15 Taking someone on of attractive disposition (8)
19 First and last letters to Rose out in Atlantic isles (6)
20 The best one to distribute (5)
21 Strike when times are bad (5)
22 Ranks as a creature of Carroll's imagination (5)

**SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS**

**Across:** 1 Above board, 6 Fare, 10 Defer, 11 Seventies, 12 Epidural, 13 Hello, 15 Climate, 17 Stripes, 19 Algiers, 21 Anemone, 22 Draft, 24 Napoleon, 27 Never fear, 28 Motto, 29 Will, 30 Wellington.

**Down:** 1 Andy, 2 Offspring, 3 Erred, 4 Observe, 5 Revolts, 7 Ariel, 8 East of Suez, 9 In charge, 14 Ice and snow, 16 Aperture, 18 Photostat, 20 Sincere, 21 Apparel, 23 Anvil, 25 Lemon, 26 Goon.

**JUMBLE**

**UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.**

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

GTNSU

LBICM

HHSATR

RYAMED

Wow! You are on fire today!
All that practice is paying off.
3/23
THE FIRST LETTER OF THE ALPHABET WON THE MATCH AFTER BRINGING ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

*Print your answer here:* ( ) - ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: RUMOR JEWEL BUTTON FACTOR
Answer: The ancient Greek deli used the abacus at its — MEAT COUNTER

# KARNATAKA TRANSPORT THREE YEARS JOURNEY OF PROGRESS

**Sri SIDDARAMAIAH**
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

**Sri D.K. SHIVAKUMAR**
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

## Induction of New Buses

Approval accorded for induction of **7800** new buses Inducted **5998** buses (KSRTC-**1286** (EV Bus- **50**), BMTC-**2329** (EV Bus- **1730**), NWKRTC-**1210**, KKRTC-**1173**)

**Guarantee**
Journey towards women empowerment
**740 Crores**
FREE TICKETS
**Rs.19349.26**
Crores Value

## Project Majestic

Plan initiated for construction of **'Transport Hub'** in Bengaluru Majestic Bus Station under Public and Private Partnership

## SALARY REVISION

Salary hike of **12.5%** for **1.05** lakh employees, Additional expenditure of ₹ **72.80** crore per month and ₹ **873.64** crore per year for the four transport corporations

## MARCH 2023 SALARY REVISION ARREARS

Approval has been given for ₹ **1,271.92** crore towards arrears payment of salary revision and the first installment of ₹ **450** crore has been released

**National and International Awards for State Road Transport Corporations**

| 1997-2026 | May 2023 - May2026 |
|---|---|
| **694** | **245** |

**Women's ridership under the Shakti Scheme has entered the world records**

## NEW RECRUITMENT

Recruited **10497** staff–Direct recruitment of **9000** and **1497** appointments completed on compassionate ground

## BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT WORKS

Initiated construction of Bus Terminal at Mysuru City at a cost of ₹ **120** Cr. I Construction of bus stations in Belgaum, Hubli and Dharwad I **31** Bus Terminals I **12** Bus Depots I Charging stations for electric vehicles at **12** locations/Depots I **10** Staff Quarters and **02** Training Centres were constructed / upgraded across the state I Under the **Smart City Mission**, bus stations at Belgaum, Tumakuru (Phase 1), Davanagere and Betur Road have been redeveloped

## KSRTC AROGYA

Health treatment at **280+** Empanelled Hospitals for employees and their dependants, unlimited cashless medical treatment, till date **1,86,973** Claims and ₹ **55.02** Crore I Medical reimbursement ₹ **16** Cr. per annum

## SARIGE SURAKSHA / FAMILY WELFARE INSURANCE SCHEME

Compensation paid ₹ **1 Cr.** / ₹ **50** lakh/ ₹ **30** lakh to the dependents of the deceased employees during accident (on duty / off duty) of ₹ **66.50** Crore I Compensation increased from ₹ **3** lakh to ₹ **14** lakh for other than accidental deaths. Total paid ₹ **93.28** Crore

## BUS REFURBISHING

**2109** buses refurbished

## BUS TRIPS

Daily Bus trips increased from **154955** to **186506**

## DHWANI SPANDANA

A friendly initiative for **visually challenged passengers**

## BUS BRANDING

Ashwamedha I Pallakki I Ambaari Utsav I Kalyana Ratha I Airavat Club Class 2.0 I Amoghavarsha I Raja Ratha

## SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE

**18,758** Heart check-up of staff, Open Heart Surgery for **10** staff and implanted stunt for **42** staff, treatment worth ₹ **50.56** Lakhs

## SARIGE MITRA (HRMS 2.0)

Transparency/uniformity in employees leave and attendance, comprehensive services records, EPF Information.

## TRAINING

Effective Training Action Plan initiated and **33482** staff trained during the last one year

## SARIGE VIDYA CHETHANA / VIDYA SPOORTHI

Scholarship amount increased for children of the employees and distributed ₹ **4.25** Crore

## DIGITAL INITIATIVES

AWATAR 4.0 with UPI Digital payment in buses I **52**% UPI payments I Inventory Management (E-Ugrana) I 'Namma BMTC' mobile app I Land Beat App I E-Vanijya I Vayuvya Snehi I Namma Kalaburagi I Accident Management Software I E-Malige I Nyaya Patha

**Sri Ramalinga Reddy,** Hon'ble Minister, Transport and Muzrai issued the appointment order for the newly appointed crew

## MOBILE WORKSHOP / METRO FEEDER SERVICE

Emergency Accident Response Vehicle I Mobile workshops deployed I **241** Metro feeder buses I **12** Package Tours I **142** Express I **33** Nice Road Services I **10292** daily additional trips

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATIONS

**ACCOMPLISHED AS PROMISED**

As enshrined in our Constitution, - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah will attend the swearing-in ceremony of VD Satheesan as Kerala CM in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. Deputy CM DK Shivakumar will accompany Siddaramaiah on board a special flight

# 'Water supply to core city ramped up, pipeline network for suburbs under way'

TEAM TNIE

EVERY summer, Bengaluru reels under a water crisis. Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) Chairman **Dr Ram Prasath Manohar V**, in an interaction with the editorial team of *TNIE*, shares how BWSSB is managing to supply water to the city. From expanding the water distribution network by laying 3,000km of pipelines, rain water harvesting to adopting Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things in water management, Manohar speaks about BWSSB's many initiatives. Excerpts...

**What is the current status of demand and supply?**
For a population of 1.4 crore, we have to supply 135-150 litres of water per person, per day. In total, we have to supply about 2,600MLD (million litres per day). It includes groundwater and Cauvery water. In capacity, we have 2,275MLD of Cauvery water supply, so about 400MLD is from groundwater. But there is always a demand and supply mismatch. During summer, the groundwater table goes down, and demand naturally increases. In October 2024, we increased the capacity by an additional 775MLD, which is roughly 40 per cent of the existing capacity. Because of that, now we are sitting in a comfortable position. We filled 23 lakes and continue to do an additional 70 lakes. We are also promoting rainwater harvesting and usage of treated water, so that fresh water demand will be met. Merely supplying additional Cauvery water will not solve the problem. We have to take this as a holistic measure.

**Since it is a multi-pronged approach, what does increased augmentation mean? Are people getting more water?**
The core business zone of Bengaluru is about 225sqkm, which was earlier experiencing a lot of deficit in the supply system. By additional capacity augmentation, we are able to increase the quantity of water in the core city. The 110 villages and CMC, TMC areas of Greater Bengaluru Authority do not have sufficient lines for distribution. So, we have taken up a project which costs about Rs 1,700crore to establish a detailed distribution network for 110 villages.

**How much does it cost to supply water and how much do consumers pay?**
BWSSB spends around Rs 54 per 1,000 litres to draw, treat and supply Cauvery water to consumers, while households are charged an average of Rs 20-30 for the same quantity. Higher consumption households pay Rs 45-50 per 1,000 litres. The high cost is mainly due to pumping water over 120km and an elevation of 1,000 metres, with 60-70 per cent of expenses going towards energy consumption. The IoT-based 'I-Pump' monitoring system has improved pump efficiency and helped reduce energy costs by nearly 25 per cent.

**What is the amount of water lost in transportation?**
In 2022, 51 per cent of water was non-revenue water (including leakage). Now, after several measures like replacing old pipes, controlling illegal connections by implementing robotic technology, non-revenue water is cut to 26 per cent. In a phased manner, over 3,000km of old pipelines in the core city would be replaced, and we can bring down non-revenue water to a single digit. In the entire country, non-revenue water percentage is less in Bengaluru, and is a benchmark. We aim to bring it to less than 10 per cent.

**Laying 3,000km of pipelines could leave the city heavily dug up...**
Work would be carried out in phases and not all at once. Most pipeline replacements would happen inside residential lanes rather than on major roads. While some inconvenience is unavoidable, upgrades are essential to improve the city's long-term water infrastructure.

**When do you plan to begin the pipeline project, and when do you expect to complete it?**
The project is currently in the DPR preparation stage and aimed not only at reducing water leakages but also improving public health by replacing ageing pipelines. Work is expected to begin this year and will be implemented in phases over five years. Around 500-600km of pipelines are proposed to be replaced every year, eventually covering nearly 3,000km across the city.

**When will Thippagondanahalli reservoir, which was the first source of water supply to Bengaluru, be rejuvenated?**
The feeder of Thippagondanahalli reservoir is Arkavathi river. The reservoir was abandoned because river water was polluted by industrial waste from Peenya, waste from villages and agricultural runoff along the river. To treat the water, we set up a treatment plant of 110 MLD capacity. As the water is heavily polluted with heavy metals, we have imported technology where a special filter is used to absorb the pollutants. The idea is to treat reservoir water and mix it with 1.5tmcft of water from the Yettinahole project, improve water quality and then supply it.

**Does BWSSB have sufficient staff strength to manage the city's needs?**
Human resource remains a major challenge while, Bengaluru's population has increased multifold. Since BWSSB was established in 1960, staff strength has reduced over the years. Currently, there are around 2,000 regular employees and nearly 5,000 outsourced workers handling non-core activities. Recruitment for over 400 assistant and junior engineer posts is under way. With 110 villages added to the city's limits, there is a need to further strengthen manpower.

**The erstwhile BBMP often said roads are dug up by other organisations, soon after being laid. What is the issue?**
The problem is mainly due to lack of coordination among multiple public and private agencies working underground, including BWSSB, Bescom, KPTCL, GAIL and cable operators. The creation of GBA would help streamline coordination. While emergency repairs may still require road cutting, long-term projects such as pipeline and sewer replacements can be planned in advance. Bengaluru lacks dedicated utility corridors, unlike planned cities, making repeated road digging unavoidable. Utility ducts alongside white-topped roads are being created to minimise future disruptions.

**How will the Mekedatu project help Bengaluru and what are the challenges in implementing the project?**
The Mekedatu project is very significant in terms of supplying additional Cauvery water for Bengaluru city, which is growing by the day. It is critical for Bengaluru's sustenance and growth, but there are a lot of legal hurdles. The project is handled by the water resources department.

**How long can Bengaluru depend on Cauvery water?**
Totally 35tmcft of water is available for the city. In Cauvery Stage 6, additional supply of 6tmcft will be approved. We are in the process of getting a financial loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the Phase 6 project, which may take some more time to commission. The second important aspect we are planning is the advanced water treatment plant project. In Singapore and other developed countries, reusable water is being used for potable purposes, but here, we can use it for non-potable purposes. Apart from that, we are also promoting tertiary treated water for purposes of data centres and IT cooling towers, which is a major consumption point for the water.

**Cauvery is the lifeline for drinking water and agriculture. What is the government's view on conserving the Cauvery catchment area?**
The Cauvery catchment is extremely important not only for Bengaluru but for several districts dependent on Cauvery water for agriculture. The government believes the river basin and catchment area must be protected and conserved for long-term water security. Conservation should focus not only on protecting the catchment area but also on maintaining water quality. Authorities are also considering stronger river basin management mechanisms and creating awareness among upstream communities to preserve the river.

**Rainwater harvesting is not fully implemented in the city?**
Yes, that is why we are promoting rainwater harvesting (RWH) as an important measure to conserve water and sustainability. With climate change, future weather forecasts are that cities will receive heavy rainfall. So if rainwater is brought into regular use instead of letting it go down the drain, it will have a long-lasting impact. The board is creating a lot of awareness about the benefits of RWH, including among children.

**Why is no strict action taken against polluting industries?**
We have to take action against polluting industries. Mere control of industries is a short-term measure. We need to provide options to treat effluents. As a long-term measure, we have proposed rejuvenation of Arkavathi river, like the Sabarmati river. We need to look at the issue holistically and address not only industry effluents, but also pollution due to other reasons. The river rejuvenation is planned along a PPP model at Rs 2,000crore.

**Bengaluru's housing patterns have changed over the decades. Are future needs being considered while replacing old pipelines?**
Older pipelines were originally designed for low-rise, horizontal layouts with single or double-storey homes. However, many areas have now transformed into dense multi-storeyed developments, putting heavy pressure on water supply and sewer systems. This has led to recurring sewage overflow and water shortage issues across the city. Future infrastructure planning takes such growth into account, but both citizens and civic agencies must support planned urban development and avoid unchecked vertical expansion that strains existing infrastructure.

**Will the proposed tunnel road act in conflict with water supply?**
Our pipelines pass less than 1-3 feet underground; the tunnel road would be passing even below that. I don't think there will be an issue.

**Why is the construction and operation of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) taking so long?**
STPs are long-term infrastructure projects involving civil works, planning, design and electro-mechanical systems. Large STPs generally take 24-36 months for completion, while smaller plants take around 18 months. Faster decentralized technologies are being explored, but they must meet National Green Tribunal standards and be affordable.

**How is AI being used in BWSSB operations?**
AI and IoT technologies are being used for pump monitoring, groundwater forecasting, tanker management and water distribution. In collaboration with the Indian Institute of Science, around 3,000 groundwater points have been fitted with AI-enabled sensors to predict shortages and improve water management. The system helps authorities decide where lake-filling, groundwater recharge and rainwater conservation measures are required. BWSSB is also set to commission an advanced Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system that will monitor water supply and sewage flow from intake points to consumers across the city. Smart meters are also being introduced for bulk consumers such as apartments and commercial establishments.

**What about sanitation workers and manual scavenging?**
There is no manual scavenging in the system, and sanitary workers use mechanised jetting machines for sewer cleaning. Robotics technology is also being used for sewer cleaning and leak detection. Welfare measures for workers include Annapoorna Yojana to provide breakfast paid by a smart card, health checkups and direct payment systems.

**Which part of Bengaluru consumes the most water?**
Generally, South and West Bengaluru consume more water. We are trying to equalise distribution so that North and East parts get adequate water as well.

**Where do Bengaluru's private tankers get their water from?**
The tanker market is currently unregulated, especially in terms of pricing, water quality and water sources. As an alternative, the board launched the 'Sanchari Cauvery' scheme, which provides GPS-tracked Cauvery water tankers with assured water quality at affordable rates. Broader regulation of private tankers would require government intervention.

**What is BWSSB's current financial position?**
The Board's financial position has improved after revising tariffs, expanding water connections, reducing illegal connections and creating new revenue streams through treated water sales and biogas production. The board has created alternative revenue streams through treated water sales to IT parks, industries, data centres and Kempegowda International Airport, apart from biogas generation using sewage sludge. Measures such as reducing energy consumption, tracking expenditure through software systems, and monitoring projects through GIS-based systems have also helped improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary expenditure. The board also received 120 crore under the Jal Mitra award for high-performing sewage treatment plants.

**Have you ever sat with the government to make tap water potable?**
Tap water is currently potable. Unfortunately, fear exists in people. At the BWSSB office, we drink water directly from the tap without boiling it. So the quality of water is far better than some bottled waters, which contain micro plastics.

**So why don't you market it?**
We're planning to introduce our slogan 'Drink water, not plastics', with micro plastic-free biodegradable bottles of water, so people can have safe water. We've taken up RO plants too. In the city, there are about 1,026 plants, of which 840 are working, and 50 per cent of these are being equipped with IoT systems.

**What is BWSSB's roadmap for the next 4-5 years?**
Infrastructure addition and capacity building is the key to sustain the system. The influx of technology to automate processes is also a key objective. The objective is to create a 'digital twin' in the next 2-3 years, which very few cities have achieved.

**Tell us a bit about your journey...**
I always wanted to be an IAS officer. In fact, I started my career as a veterinary doctor. After many failures to join civil service, I joined police service and then forest service, and finally Indian Administrative Service. On a personal level, I have started 'Aspire with RAM IAS' to mentor underprivileged kids online through my website rpmias.com. We conduct mock tests and group discussions where reading material is shared. I'm doing this out of my passion and commitment to the cause.

EXPRESS Dialogues

# JDS will win 75 seats in 2028, claims HDK

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

LAUNCHING a sharp attack on the Congress government in Karnataka, Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy said that the Ruling party leaders were under the impression that people were living comfortably because of the five guarantee schemes.

He was speaking at the JDS convention 'Janarondige Janata Dal' at Chamundeshwari constituency in Mysuru on Sunday. "If the Congress leaders visit my residence daily, they will understand the real hardships people are facing," Kumaraswamy said, asking Congress leaders to introspect before accusing the Union Government over rising fuel prices.

Expressing confidence about the future of the JDS, Kumaraswamy said that the party would win 75 seats in the next Assembly elections in Karnataka and asserted that Chamundeshwari would remain a JDS fortress. "We will not bow to any pressure. This convention has been organised to assure our workers that Chamundeshwari continues to be a stronghold of the JDS," he said.

Hunsur MLA GD Harish Gowda described the large turnout as a proof of enduring support for the party in Chamundeshwari. He said that the event had been organised in just five days and said most attendees were from the constituency itself.

Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy and other JDS leaders at the 'Janarondige Janata Dal' convention in Mysuru on Sunday | UDAYASHANKAR S

**JDS flexes muscle in Chamundeshwari despite GTD's absence**

JDS on Sunday flexed its muscle in Chamundeshwari assembly constituency despite the absence of local MLA GT Devegowda who has reportedly distanced himself from the party. Recalling the Chamundeshwari bypoll episode and past political developments in the constituency, Kumaraswamy admitted that mistakes committed within the party had once cost JDS dearly. "Had our leaders been more cautious then, the state would not have reached the present situation," he said. He clarified that the convention was not organised to target any individual but to expose what he described as the failures of the Congress government. Interestingly none of the banners and flexes carried a photo of G T Devegowda, despite him expressing his loyalty to JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda two days back.

Defending the recent fuel price hike, Kumaraswamy linked it to global geopolitical tensions. He said disruptions in oil supply caused by the prolonged conflict involving Iran, Israel and the United States had impacted fuel prices worldwide. He maintained that fuel prices in India were still comparatively lower than in many developed countries.

Predicting the return of a coalition government in Karnataka, Harish Gowda said Kumaraswamy would once again become the CM and that Nikhil Kumaraswamy would play a major role in bringing the alliance to power. "Nikhil, too, will rise to occupy a significant position in the future," he said.

**JDS not limited to Old Mysuru region: Nikhil**

Nikhil Kumaraswamy asserted that the party is no longer confined to the Old Mysuru region and has established a strong presence across Karnataka. "Opponents say JDS is limited only to the Old Mysuru belt. But the party has expanded across the state, including Kalyana Karnataka and Kittur Karnataka. People across Karnataka are showing increasing support towards JDS," he said, expressing confidence that the BJP–JDS alliance would form the government in Karnataka in 2028. On the chief ministerial question, Nikhil said the focus should be on development rather than positions of power. "People still remember Kumaraswamy's administration fondly despite his short tenure as CM. Development of the state is more important than the CM's chair," he said.

Nikhil also said Kumaraswamy's shift to national politics and Parliament happened due to unexpected political developments, but added that the latter continues to remain closely connected with farmers, the poor and middle-class people.

# DKS on temple run as govt set to complete 3 yrs in office

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

AT a time when murmurs of leadership change have resurfaced once again after the recent bypolls to Bagalkot and Davanagere South, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister **DK Shivakumar**, is on a temple run.

After visiting the famous Shaneswaran Temple at Karaikal in Puducherry and Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Temple in Thiruchendur in Tamil Nadu on his 65th birthday last week, Shivakumar, who is also the state Congress president, will visit Tirupati on Monday. It comes days before the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government in the state completes three years in office on May 20.

Shivakumar, known for his statement that "an attempt may fail, but prayer never fails", had also pinned his hopes on the Congress high command that it would ensure that he is made the CM according to the 2.5-year agreement brokered between him and Siddaramaiah by the Congress high command in 2023.

After attending the swearing-in of VD Satheesan as Kerala CM in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday morning, Shivakumar will fly to Tirupati in the evening. On Tuesday morning, he will offer prayers at the Tirumala temple. He will then fly back to Bengaluru and go to Tumakuru to take part in the official event marking the three years of the Karnataka government. He will share the stage with the CM and his cabinet colleagues, where they are also expected to send out a message to their followers over the issue of the change in leadership or a cabinet reshuffle.

They will put up a united front in the event and are likely to leave for Delhi to meet the high command leaders soon, informed sources said.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Youth Congress president Manjunath Gowda said that Shivakumar deserves to be the CM and he will acquire the top post when the time comes. Indirectly referring to the BJP, Gowda said that a political party has been trying to woo Shivakumar, but it will not succeed as the latter is a staunch Congress loyalist.

"DKS should become the CM, why not? He has that ability, and he will become the CM when the time comes, as we all have faith in God," Gowda said.

NEET ROW

# Youth Congress to lay siege to Guv's office

ENS @ Bengaluru

INDIAN Youth Congress members will lay siege to the Lok Bhavan in Bengaluru on May 21 to protest against the issue of NEET question paper leak.

Addressing the media in Bengaluru on Sunday, national general secretary Nigam Bhandary alleged that during the BJP-led NDA tenure at the Centre, the question paper was leaked 89 times, adding to the misery of the students. "The Centre has pushed the students into an inferno, as four students had committed suicide. The paper leaks have happened only in states ruled by the BJP," he alleged.

"We are protesting on a big scale as Deputy CM D K Shivakumar and AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala will take part. We have also invited Chief Minister Siddaramaiah," informed Karnataka Youth Congress president Manjunath Gowda.

He mocked that after the Indian Premier League, it is the Indian Paper Leak that has taken place under the Modi regime. "The close associates of the Rajasthan Education Minister are behind the paper leak," he alleged.

Two women from Kerala died and eight persons injured when their jeep collided with an oncoming truck at Kollur Dali in Kundapur taluk on Sunday. The victims are from Kottayam in Kerala. The deceased are Jyothi (30) and Arya Anoop (28)

# NO JEALOUSY, ONLY ADMIRATION FOR VIJAY'S VICTORY: RAJINIKANTH

## Says he never tried to broker deal between DMK and AIADMK

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

DENYING allegations that he tried to broker a deal between the DMK and AIADMK following the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections results in order to prevent Chief Minister and TVK president C Joseph Vijay from forming the government, actor Rajinikanth on Sunday said, "I am not such a disgraceful person who would do such things." The veteran actor also said that he admires Vijay for his achievement and dismissed claims of jealousy.

Praising Vijay's political success, Rajinikanth said the actor has achieved more than what legendary leaders MG Ramachandran (former Tamil Nadu chief minister) and NT Rama Rao (former Andhra Pradesh chief minister) had achieved at the same stage, by independently defeating the two major Dravidian parties after entering politics from cinema. "This is not jealousy; it is a combination of happiness and admiration," he said. Addressing reporters at his Poes Garden residence, Rajinikanth clarified that his post-election meeting with DMK president MK Stalin was purely out of personal friendship and concern over the latter's defeat in the Kolathur constituency. "Our friendship spans nearly four decades and is above politics," he said, adding that criticism suggesting that he had met Stalin to prevent Vijay from becoming the chief minister or to facilitate an alliance between other parties was baseless.

Actor Rajanikanth during a minute-long interaction with the media in Chennai on Sunday | EXPRESS

Rajinikanth also dismissed allegations that he had failed to congratulate Vijay after the election results, noting that he had congratulated him on social media immediately after the victory. He further said there was no reason for envy as he was no longer in politics. Referring to his 25-year age gap with Vijay, he said that comparisons between them would be inappropriate. In a lighter vein, Rajinikanth added, "Perhaps I would have felt jealous if Kamal Haasan had become the chief minister. Even then, I would not have felt that way because what is destined to come will come; what is not destined will not."

When asked if he might have won had he entered the fray in 2021, the actor said there was no doubt about it. However, he did not answer the follow-up question of whether he thought that ship had sailed now. Asked what advice or guidance he would offer Vijay, Rajinikanth said, "The expectations from Vijay are extremely high. People should give him at least two years' time. His fans and party workers must conduct themselves cautiously."

Commenting on non-Dravidian party coming to power after a gap of 60 years in Tamil Nadu, he said, "We have seen 60 years. There is a need for change, and Vijay fits into it."

# HC registrar lodges complaint over fake post on Bandi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

A FAKE social media post alleging that Union Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs **Bandi Sanjay Kumar** attempted to influence a Telangana High Court judge in connection with the POCSO case against his son has led to a police complaint and investigation by the Hyderabad Cybercrime police.

The complaint was initially lodged with the Charminar police by Telangana High Court registrar BS Chiranjeevi, following circulation of what he described as "concocted news" on social media on May 14. The case was later transferred to the Hyderabad cybercrime police, where it was re-registered for further investigation.

According to the complaint, the social media post alleged that Sanjay was using various means to protect his son, Bandi Sai Bhageerath, and attempting to influence the police, mainstream media and social media.

The post further claimed that the MoS was trying to influence Justice T Madhavi Devi, a senior vacation judge of the Telangana High Court, by allegedly offering to ensure appointment of her husband as chairman of the Bar Council of Telangana if anticipatory bail was granted to his son in the POCSO case.

The registrar stated in the complaint that the allegations were false and fabricated. He further said the content had not only circulated widely on social media but had also been published in print media, thereby reaching judges, advocates and the general public and tarnishing the image of the judiciary.

Police registered a case under Sections 353(1)(c), 353(2) and 267 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and launched an investigation.

# Now, 1 more express train to connect B'luru-Mumbai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

UNION Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday virtually flagged off the inaugural run of the new Bengaluru–Mumbai express train after over 30 years of waiting. The minister described it as a major step towards strengthening rail connectivity between Karnataka and Maharashtra and also announced that the Bengaluru–Mumbai Vande Bharat Sleeper service is expected to begin soon.

The regular service of Train No. 16553/16554 SMVT Bengaluru– Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Bi-Weekly Express will commence from May 23 and 24, respectively, with an additional stoppage approved at Tumakuru station in both directions. The journey will take 24 hours and 5 minutes, and the train will halt at Tumakuru, Davangere, SSS Hubballi, Dharwad, Belagavi, Miraj Junction, Sangli, Karad, Satara, Lonand, Pune, Lonavala, Karjat, Kalyan and Thane stations. Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna thanked Vaishnaw for sanctioning the new train and said it would benefit passengers travelling on one of the busiest routes while boosting Karnataka's development. On the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project, Vaishnaw stated that work is progressing across all four corridors. For the Baiyappanahalli–Chikkabanavara and Heelalige–Rajanukunte corridors, land acquisition has been completed.

He noted that a Vande Bharat Sleeper maintenance depot will be established at Thanisandra for Rs 270 crore, along with a chair car maintenance facility at SMVT Bengaluru costing Rs 52.73 crore.

Minister for Railways V Somanna flags off the Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Express | EXPRESS

### Tejasvi seeks fast rail link between B'luru, Mumbai

Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya on Sunday urged Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to sanction a high-speed rail corridor between Bengaluru and Mumbai via Davanagere and Hubballi, saying it would boost economic activity in Central and North Karnataka. Speaking virtually during the flag-off ceremony of the new SMVT Bengaluru–Lokmanya Tilak Terminus express train, he said Bengaluru and Mumbai are India's two economic centres and improved connectivity between them would transform Karnataka's growth prospects.

**SEA THERAPY**

To get respite from the hot summer, families throng Chennai's Marina Beach and enjoy the cool sea breeze on Sunday | ASHWIN PRASATH

# Cellphone helped cops crack murder

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

AFTER Nirmala lodged a complaint, police filed an FIR as a kidnap case as the girl was a minor. Her mobile phone call details were traced, following which police grew suspicious of Thimmarayappa.

The accused had kept his daughter's mobile phone after getting the SIM card removed. He had visited a local mobile phone sale and repair shop, which was confirmed by CCTV footage. When police asked him to appear for an inquiry, he avoided them and disappeared from the village. Following this, police filed a missing FIR and started tracing him.

He went to pilgrimage centres like Tirupati and Dharmasthala before being caught by police.

# Trans activists oppose SIR, seek voting rights protection

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

TRANSGENDER activists, feminists and members of the LGBTQIA+ community on Sunday raised concerns over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging that the process could disenfranchise transgender persons, sex workers, tribals, single women, widows and other historically marginalised groups who often lack access to conventional identity and family documentation.

The concerns were voiced during the launch of the "Trans Feminist Collective" organised in Bengaluru in connection with the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia. Transgender activist Akkai Padmashali said many countries across the world are witnessing increasing hostility towards sexual minorities and warned against policies that could marginalise vulnerable groups. She criticised the proposed Transgender Amendment Act, calling it "regressive" and alleging that the government failed to conduct adequate consultations with members of the community before introducing the amendments.

Ruth Manorama, president of the National Federation of Dalit Women and Women's Voice, said transgender, queer, intersex and historically marginalised communities are central to democracy and equality. She described the launch of TFC as an assertion of dignity.

Activists argued that self-identification rights and traditional gender-diverse identities have not been recognised in current laws. "My vote is my right," Padmashali said, adding that voting rights should not be denied on procedural grounds. They urged authorities to ensure that electoral processes do not discriminate against communities already facing social economic drawbacks.

# M'luru prison turns into cultural stage on Sundays

ABHIJITH N KOLPE@ Mangaluru

IN an effort to reform and uplift inmates, District Prison Superintendent Sharanabasappa has introduced cultural activities on Sundays, creating a positive and encouraging atmosphere within the prison walls. These programmes give inmates a platform to showcase their hidden talents like singing, dancing, poetry and other cultural performances.

Over 10 months of Sharanabasappa's tenure, the prison environment has been transformed, instilling a sense of confidence among the inmates. For the past four months, cultural activities have been conducted every Sunday, from 4pm to 6pm. Inmates also participate in yoga sessions and listen to motivational talks by Brahma Kumaris and Art of Living institute.

One inmate said the atmosphere inside prison has changed significantly since Sharanabasappa took charge. Instead of living in constant stress and isolation, prisoners are encouraged to take part in creative activities that allow them to express themselves and interact positively with others.

The Sunday events have become a source of motivation and hope for many. An undertrial from Ullal, arrested in an NDPS case, shared his personal experience.

Previously residing in Bengaluru, where he owns a music studio, he says music has always been a major part of his life. In prison, he continues to stay connected to his passion by writing lyrics, singing, and performing during weekly events.

Another inmate, arrested in a robbery case in Vamanjoor, has worked as art director for Malayalam and Tamil movies and album songs. He said, "It is unfortunate to end up in prison, but the superintendent recognises the talents of inmates and encourages us to perform. This helps us feel positive and forget our sorrow. Having been in prison for two years, I have met many characters, each with their own story, and I have made a note of them." An inmate from Shivamogga said that since childhood, he had an interest in singing and writing lyrics on the themes of motherly love and romance. His mother fell into a coma after he was imprisoned.

Sharanabasappa said the initiative has not only helped inmates discover and nurture their talents but also contributed to maintaining harmony and positivity. "Such activities play an important role in rehabilitation by reducing stress, improving mental well-being, and encouraging personal growth," he added. He noted that 10 months ago, the district prison used to face frequent clashes. To improve the atmosphere, he decided to introduce positive changes, and gave inmates the freedom to express themselves. According to him, these activities help prevent clashes by engaging inmates in constructive participation, fostering positive changes in their behaviour. "Every inmate has some talent, and Sunday activities provide a platform for them to showcase these abilities. Among the inmates are talented singers, dancers, writers and actors, and it allow them to express themselves," he said.

Over the past 10 months, clashes have reduced significantly, and the entry of mobile phones into prison is very rare compared to earlier. Even extortion by habitual offenders against first-time inmates has been completely eliminated.

CRIME PATROL

### Salesman rear-ends goods vehicle, dies

BENGALURU: A 57-year-old salesman died on the spot after his scooter rear-ended a goods vehicle that allegedly braked suddenly, causing him to fall onto the road near Huskur Cross on the Bengaluru Nelamangala Highway on Saturday afternoon. PM Lokesh, the victim, died on spot due to severe head injuries. He was a resident of SVK Layout in Basaveshwaranagar. The police said at 1 pm, Lokesh was returning to Bengaluru from Nelamangala after collecting orders. Near Huskur Cross, on the Nelamangala–Bengaluru Express Highway, his electric scooter rear-ended a goods vehicle that applied sudden brakes. His body was shifted to Nelamangala Government Hospital for post-mortem. A case is registered under Sections 106 (causing death by negligence) and 281 (rash driving on a public way) of the BNS, and further investigation is underway. **ENS**

### Tea stall owner killed over Rs 200 debt

BENGALURU: A 41-year-old tea stall owner was brutally beaten by a man for asking to repay a debt of Rs 200 on May 12. The man succumbed to head injury during treatment at the hospital on Saturday morning. The incident took place in Dyavasandra village of Doddaballapur taluk in Bengaluru Rural district. The Doddabelavangala police have arrested the accused on Saturday. The deceased, Manjunath, and the accused Muniyappa (45) are residents of the Dyavasandra village. Police said, Muniyappa had come to Manjunath's tea stall on May 12 early in the morning, to have tea. When Manjunath was asked to lend him more money, he refused and asked Muniyappa to pay the old debt of Rs 200. Enraged during the argument, Muniyappa struck Manjunath on head with a wooden stick and fled the spot. The family had filed a murder case against Muniyappa, an unemployed with a petty case registered against him years ago for assaulting his mother over a money dispute. **ENS**

### 4 foreigners escape from detention centre

BENGALURU: The Kothanur police are on the lookout for four foreign national women who escaped after breaking a window at a detention centre on KRC Road in Doddagubbi village. The escaped foreign nationals Topista Kwikiriza, Nagawa Sheillah, Safina Nakanyike from Uganda, and Fitina Nzeyimana from Burundi, were held for staying illegally in the city. Srinivas N (48), manager of the Home of Hope Ashram, said in his complaint that foreign nationals residing illegally in Bengaluru are accommodated at the ashram as per the orders of the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO). On May 11, the four women, brought in by the Hennur police, escaped, thereby violating the orders of the FRRO authorities. Police are analysing CCTV footage, previous whereabouts and their contacts in the city are being examined to trace them. **ENS**

### Man, sons drown in farm tank in Malur

KOLAR: A man and his two sons, who attempted to swim in an agricultural tank drowned in Nakkanahalli of Malur Taluk in Kolar district on Sunday. According to Masthi Circle Inspector Om Prakash, Srinivas (45), a labourer, took his sons Chethan (15) and Rajesh (9) to the tank adjacent to their house to teach them swimming. When the boys saw Srinivas, who did not know how to swim, drowning, they jumped into the water to rescue him but all three of them died. Villagers said Srinivas' wife had asked the trio not to enter the tank but they did not listen to her. **ENS**

### Unauthorised prayer hall shut in Kodagu

MADIKERI: Police sealed an unauthorised prayer hall at Herur village near Suntikoppa in Kodagu district and detained a group of persons from Tamil Nadu for questioning, following objections from local residents and panchayat members. Police said, the newly inaugurated building, was being used as a prayer centre and to promote Christianity among tribal communities in the area. Visitors from Tamil Nadu, who had arrived for the inauguration, were detained for questioning. Police found that the structure was constructed without the required permissions. The premises were locked and shut down by the police. Gram Panchayat president M Jagannath urged the Social Welfare Department to examine allegations of illegal religious conversions in tribal areas, claiming that benefits meant for Scheduled Tribes were being misused. **ENS**

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DIRECTOR

# EDITORIAL

If you need something from somebody, always give that person a way to hand it to you

Sue Monk Kidd

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

## NEET GOING DIGITAL MEANS LITTLE WITHOUT NTA TRANSPARENCY

FOR the second time in three years, India's nodal testing agency, the National Testing Agency (NTA), has failed the crucial test of conducting examinations at scale. The latest controversy surrounding the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate) has added to students' stress, angered parents, embarrassed the government and revived demands for the agency's restructuring. Leaked question papers for the medical entrance examination conducted by the NTA drew charges of systemic failure and poor gatekeeping. It all happened despite hi-tech safeguards such as GPS tracking, AI-assisted CCTV and biometric verification. The ongoing CBI probe has reportedly traced the organised cheating racket to the NTA's doorstep, as some of its subject matter experts who drafted the question papers couldn't resist the lure of easy money to facilitate cheating. Their shocking lack of moral compass and integrity was completely at odds with the values their profession is meant to represent.

The education ministry responded swiftly by announcing a retest on June 21 and a full refund of examination fees. It also accepted another long-standing demand: transitioning NEET-UG to a digital format from next year, rather than the existing pen-and-paper system. The Joint Entrance Examination (JEE-Main) for engineering admissions is already computer-based, though it serves a smaller pool of candidates—around 13 lakh, compared to nearly 23 lakh for NEET-UG. The scale of NEET-UG has long posed logistical challenges, which partly explains the health ministry's resistance to a computer-based format since 2018. Conducting the exam digitally may now require staggered testing over several days rather than a single nationwide session. Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan acknowledged that the optical mark recognition-based system lay at the heart of the current fraud, making the shift to computer-based testing appear both necessary and overdue.

The government's urgency is understandable given the growing public outrage over repeated examination lapses. Calls for a broader overhaul of the NTA have consequently intensified. Though an autonomous body under the education ministry, the NTA remains outside the ambit of CAG audits and direct parliamentary scrutiny. A recent petition before the Supreme Court has sought the creation of a statutory NTA through parliamentary legislation with clearly defined powers, accountability mechanisms and transparency safeguards. The demand deserves serious consideration, especially at a time when public trust in the country's examination system stands severely eroded.

## ZERO FARMER SUICIDES; DISTRESS STILL REMAINS

TELANGANA has come a long way since its formation in 2014. While development is often measured through indicators such as state gross domestic product, per capita income and soaring skylines, one statistic perhaps reflects the state's transformation more meaningfully than the skyscrapers rising across Hyderabad—the number of farmer suicides. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report for 2024 released this month, Telangana recorded zero farmer suicides for the first time since its inception.

The fact that 898 and 1,358 such tragedies were recorded in the state's first two years underscores how far Telangana has progressed. True, not every case may find its way into official records, but even after accounting for underreporting, the achievement is significant. Farmer distress in the state today is nowhere near the life-and-death crisis that prevailed a decade ago. Credit must therefore go, cutting across party lines, to successive governments—including the present Congress dispensation—for placing farmers' welfare at the forefront through measures such as crop loan waivers, irrigation and canal projects, investment support and crop procurement initiatives. In addition, a wide range of welfare schemes has played a crucial role in easing what was once a deeply distressing situation.

Nonetheless, the root cause—debt trap—remains far from being permanently resolved. The previous BRS government announced farm loan waivers of up to ₹1 lakh in 2014 and again in 2018, while the Congress, that assumed office in late 2023, raised the waiver limit to ₹2 lakh. Together, they have cost the exchequer at least ₹40,000 crore. Such interventions became necessary due to recurring drought-like conditions, crop failures and mounting debt. Staggered implementation of the waivers also created hardships for sections of farmers. The only sustainable way to ease their distress is to make agriculture profitable—a long-cherished dream—while expanding crop insurance coverage and credit lines. It would also require greater synergy between the government and farmers in areas such as cropping patterns.

There is, however, another side to the story. The NCRB data does not separately account for agricultural labourers, who are classified under daily wagers. In Telangana, suicides among daily wagers stood at 5,745 in 2024, though it remains unclear how many were linked to agriculture. So, while the state certainly has reason to take heart from the decline in farmer suicides, it also has ample reason to guard against complacency.

**QUICK TAKE**

### PEEKABOO APPLIANCES

SMART appliances promise comfort, but they may also turn homes into silent surveillance zones. Today's 'smart' televisions, thermostats, doorbells, speakers, kitchen appliances and smartphones stay constantly connected to the web. In fact, average American households in 2025 reportedly had more than 17 web-linked devices. That convenience comes with risks. Hidden microphones and cameras can quietly capture conversations, habits and personal details, often without users fully understanding how. US lawmakers are now pushing the 'Spy Fridge' Bill to make companies disclose the presence of cameras or microphones in these devices before people buy them. India, where fears over digital snooping already run deep, must strengthen safeguards and accountability lest smart home appliances become sneaky.

As Washington and Beijing search for a more stable relationship, India must assess whether a more accommodative US-China equation could reshape Asian geopolitics and regional power balances

## THE RETURN OF GREAT POWER BARGAINING

VIJAY GOKHALE

Former foreign secretary and former Ambassador to the People's Republic of China

SOURAV ROY

PRESIDENT Donald Trump returned to China this week, over eight years after his last visit in November 2017. The symbolism is hard to miss. Between 1972 and 2017, every US president made the journey to Beijing with the conviction that strengthening ties with China was not incongruous with preserving American dominance. Joe Biden broke with that tradition. His administration called China out as the greatest challenge to American power because it was seeking to reshape the global order built by America, and framed the rivalry as between democracy and autocracy. Trump's return to Beijing closes that chapter. Statements from Washington, including the National Security Strategy released last November and during Trump's visit, suggest that the US has reverted to the path of managing the rise of a rival through accommodation.

However, it might be a mistake to presume that Trump went to China with the weaker hand. Both parties came to the table with some leverage, but both are also in pain. The bruising tariff war in 2025 has damaged both economies. It is true that America's trade deficit with China stubbornly remains at $350 billion, but China's access to American markets is also reducing. The last time Trump was in Beijing, the near-universal expectation was that China would overtake the US in GDP terms by the mid-2020s, but the Chinese economy ($21 trillion) is still stuck at two-thirds the size of the US's GDP ($32 trillion). Between the two visits by Trump, China's share of global manufacturing has increased from 20 percent to 29 percent, whereas the US's share has further declined to 16 percent. Yet, in technology, the Americans maintain the lead and still have the ability to impede China's scientific progress due to their dominance in high-end chip design and manufacturing. And, despite persistent Chinese efforts to conduct more trade, including in oil and gas, in the renminbi, the dollar is still king.

In terms of the war in the Persian Gulf, Trump's inability to end it on purely American terms may be satisfying, but a prolonged closure of the Hormuz Strait is not in China's interest. Its studied non-intervention at any level suggests that it is not yet a match for US global power. It would be more accurate to say that the two leaders met on terms more equal than when Trump last called on President Xi Jinping in 2017, but not as complete equals.

Notwithstanding this, during Trump's visit, Xi made every effort to put the relationship on par with that of two peers without equal. References to creating a 'new paradigm of major country relations', underscoring how this relationship was the most significant one globally, and even Xi's reference to the 'Thucydides Trap'—the Greek theory suggesting that a rising power threatens to displace an established dominant power—were intended to reinforce that point. China might not have explicitly mentioned a G-2, but given that Trump has used this definition earlier, its choice of phrases suggests it is not averse to the idea.

The optics suggest that neither side wishes to return to the mutually damaging tit-for-tat downward spiral of the previous year. Each party had its bucket list. China was seeking tariff relief, the softening of US sanctions against Chinese companies buying oil from Iran and easier access to semiconductors and advanced lithography to produce cutting-edge chips. The US wanted China to increase farm purchases, ease restrictions on rare-earth exports, invest more in the US and loosen regulations on American companies in China. Both sides have claimed that there were mutually beneficial outcomes. As always, the devil lies in the details.

How often in the past has China promised to make more purchases in order to balance the trade, or announced large investment commitments, and not just with the US, only to renege when the time comes to implement them? Details of the economic compromise are still to be fully unveiled, but reading between the lines, the Chinese call for 'equal-footed consultation' on trade and economic matters indicates that reciprocity will now be a two-way street between Washington and Beijing. Going forward, the US has diminishing capacity to 'sanction' the PRC without consequences.

On the broader relationship, the American media has latched onto a new definition coined by the Chinese: 'building a constructive China-US relationship of strategic stability'. Nice sounding as that is, calling for more cooperation, competition within limits and properly managing differences, there is scarce indication whether new rules or guard rails might be put in place to prevent the relationship from falling off the cliff again. It is possibly the summit optics and framing, which the Chinese are good at. Their idea of 'strategic stability' likely encompasses the US's accommodation of China's interests in the South China Sea and the western Pacific. The US is unlikely to easily surrender control over that space.

One specific red line that was clearly articulated was Taiwan. China hoped for, but did not expect, a change in the American position (Secretary of State Marco Rubio subsequently said there was no change), but it made clear that any regression might lead to 'clashes and even conflict'. China was signalling resolve at the highest level, and cautioning the US to be extra prudent, including on delivering the massive $11 billion arms package that Trump cleared at the end of last year.

More details will seep out over the coming weeks. India will need to pay close attention. Could the development of a *de facto* G-2 enhance China's role in South Asia, as it attempted to do after the nuclear tests in 1998, when the US needed China's help on non-proliferation? Might the US need China's active participation in keeping the Hormuz Strait open, thereby legitimising an expanded Chinese naval presence in the northern Indian Ocean, as happened in 2007 after the West sought China's help in anti-piracy operations off the Somali coast? Will the US dilute collaboration with India because China objects to QUAD? Will they write the global rules for AI without taking India's requirements into consideration?

Conventional wisdom suggests that mutual suspicion is deeply entrenched between the two sides, but then, Trump is an unconventional president.

*(Views are personal)*

## GRACE OF SKANDA

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

ADHIKA Skanda Sashti falls on May 21, and brings sweet thoughts of Murugan, meaning 'the beautiful one' in Tamil. The main Skanda Sashti occurs in October or November and is celebrated as a major festival in Tamil Nadu and across the Tamil diaspora. But there are also monthly remembrances of his feat of defeating the *asura* Surapadman and his brothers to restore cosmic balance and peace on Earth.

Murugan's various *lilas*, or sacred games, have shaped the contours of Tamil culture since ancient times, and he remains an abiding source of spiritual strength, emotional security and courage in adversity for many. After all, whose son is he? Besides his own powerful *shakti*, he additionally combines the strength and blessings of his divine parents and elder brother in his radiant self. Even in Delhi, his abode, the Uttara Swami Malai or Malai Mandir, affords a heartening glimpse of '*gopura darshan*' and typically southern red-and-white base stripes as one passes by. It elicits the instinctive murmur of the Shadakshari or six-syllable, Murugan mantra '*Om Saravana Bhava*', with Om as the general mantra prefix.

Murugan's six-temple circuit in Tamil Nadu is like an energy grid holding the land together, and it has an old tradition of kavadiyas who wear green dhotis and walk in peaceful, orderly files from temple to temple. The six temples are Tiruppurankunram (*kunram* means hill, where Murugan temples are usually built), Tiruchendur by the sea, Palani, Swami Malai, Tiruttani and Pazhamudhirsolai. His consorts, the Tamil beauty Valli (possibly the oldest love story of the Tamil land) and Lord Indra's daughter Deivanai, represent his Ichha Shakti and Kriya Shakti, and also symbolically unite North and South into one force-field of energy.

My father's ancestral temple is Tiruttani, and I was taken there as a child for *mottai* or *mundan*, the ritual shaving of the head. Going back as an adult merely out of cultural curiosity at the height of my 'Left-liberal Khan Market gang' phase, I nevertheless felt such a strong tug of attachment and such an overwhelming sense of having come home that I was taken aback. I see it now as Murugan's grace. It dawned on me that some earthly songs go deep, that the gods are in our very marrow, and we should accept that with gratitude and respect, and not be led unnecessarily astray.

Perhaps it's also because the things we hear that 'speak to us' can subconsciously form deep layers of identity. I was exposed to world music from childhood because my parents had very eclectic tastes and bought all kinds of records that they played all the time. There was Carnatic, Hindustani and Western classical, old Tamil and Hindi film songs, Bengali geet and Urdu ghazals, Western pop and musicals, you name it.

But in this garden of sound, Murugan *bhakti* songs bloomed like sudden, sweet grace notes of malli (jasmine).

EXPRESS

> Gods are in our very marrow, and we should accept that with gratitude and respect. And since the gods are some of the most beautiful intuitions of mankind, one could eternally welcome them in their hearts and carry them forward in the form of knowledge

So, along with all that other music, I listened to various melodic compositions on Murugan. They were in Tamil, and I found them very powerful and energising, renewing your spirit each time with their good vibrations. They are all available online today, rendered by various gifted singers.

They range from the immortal 14th-century Tiruppugazh by the reformed rake Arunagirinathar, the 19th-century Kanda Sashti Kavacham, composed by Devaraya Swamigal, which is a hypnotic power chant in mellifluous Tamil with built-in *bijaksharas* ('seed syllables' valued as distilled mantras), to the thrilling 20th-century devotional songs by T N Soundararajan. I was also taken to Bombay's Aurora theatre on Sunday mornings to see the then-powerful genre of Tamil devotional films, which featured unforgettable songs with moving lyrics. So, along with English-language films like *The Sound of Music*, *The Singing Nun* and *The Man Who Knew Too Much* with its evergreen song '*Que sera, sera*', I was lucky enough to get a regular dose of *bhakti* films in my childhood.

The biggest take-home from all this was the electrifying realisation that 'being Indian' was like being given a giant box of chocolates, an *akshayapatram* of many wonderful and delicious things. That you were not forced to eat only one kind, that it was possible to have it all. All.

And since the gods are some of the most beautiful intuitions of mankind, you could rightfully, honourably and openly have the gods, for they are not going anywhere. This is their home, as much and even more than it is yours and mine, for you and I will pass away, but they have been here for millenniums. The only gods still around from ancient times are those that live eternally in our hearts and in our land, testimony to the master craftsmen and artisans who wrought their images and temples, and to the poets who sang of them, whereas the gods of other ancient civilisations have mostly vanished into museums. Saying which, I realise that I echo an ancient promise. That of Sivaperuman (Lord Shiva) at Chidambaram, where he promised to dance eternally "there and in the hearts of mankind" as Nataraja.

Here, the inspiring legend of Swami Malai comes to mind. It is revered as the place where the child Murugan explained the meaning of the Pranava Mantra (Om) to his father, Lord Shiva. It was not as though Shiva, the very embodiment of Om, did not know. But it illustrates the younger generation re-examining and refreshing knowledge, thus owning it and taking the culture forward. Another reason to love Murugan, for showing us our rights and duties as inheritors.

*(Views are personal)*

*(shebaba09@gmail.com)*

## MAILBAG

**WRITE TO:** letters@newindianexpress.com

### Equitable expansion

Ref: *Think big* (May 17). Indian politicians are not wise enough to think big in a healthy way. Trying to monetise quiet peace at home does not sound prudent for an over-populated India. Where is the space for throwing open the doors wider for generic supplies to homes hit by inflation?

**Geetha B K, Kannur**

### Spilling conflicts

Ref: *Tehran, Moscow must walk the talk* (May 17). For a long time now, 'regional conflicts' continue to be misquoted, while the fact remains that they inevitably spill beyond corridors and cripple the world economic order. It is imminent that Tehran and Moscow fulfil their commitments towards regional peace initiatives with concrete actions.

**R Sampath, Chennai**

### Cybercrime awareness

Ref: *Of cybercrime* (May 17). The surge in online fraud reflects how technology's convenience has outpaced caution. Scammers exploit haste and ignorance, turning digital trust into vulnerability. Cyber hygiene should be taught as civic discipline, not optional awareness.

**K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru**

### Citizens served

Ref: *Align mandate with leader* (*The New Sunday Express Magazine*, May 17). India's diversity need not prevent us from implementing good governance across regions. Recent positive examples from the South should be seen as lessons for the whole nation. Citizens everywhere seek leaders who prioritise integrity, accountability and service over personal gain.

**S M Ansar Daraani, Mangaluru**

### NEET probe

Ref: *Botany prof held* (May 17). The speedy probe being conducted by the CBI team is appreciated. It's worrying that a retired chemistry professor had a central part to play in the paper leak. How can security be ensured if the fence itself eats the crop?

**Rajan K, Palakkad**

### Exposed rot

Ref: *NTA shakeup* (May 17). The NEET paper leak, which has exposed the failure of the authorities to maintain the security and fairness of one of India's most important examinations. The inability to prevent the leak despite strict rules and modern security measures raises serious questions about the accountability and efficiency of the responsible departments.

**Imtiaz, Darbhanga**

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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**POSTS OF THE DAY**

**Mamata Banerjee** @MamataOfficial
Bengal does not believe in bulldozer politics. The land of Tagore and Netaji cannot be ruled through fear, force, and demolition drives against ordinary citizens.

**Saket Gokhale** @SaketGokhale
Since the SC has orally observed that it might even order a CBI probe into fake law degrees, it should order DU & Gujarat University to release PM Modi's degree

**Yogi Adityanath** @myogiadityanath
The BJP is not only the only party in the country but in the entire world, which has always declared that the nation comes 1st, the party 2nd, and the individual's interest last...

# Fivefold reduction in CBSE paper recheck fee to ₹100

The board brings down charge per question to ₹25 from ₹100 earlier

**S LALITHA** @ New Delhi

THE Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Sunday announced that it was slashing the re-evaluation fee drastically to facilitate easier access to them for students.

This is in light of a major controversy which erupted following the declaration of the CBSE Class 12 results on May 13. With the new On-Screen Marking (OSM) system adopted for the evaluation of answer sheets, thousands of students felt they ended up with lesser marks than expected. The overall pass percentage too fell from 88.39% to 85.2% this year.

In a hurriedly convened press meet at Kartavya Bhavan addressed by the school education secretary Sanjay Kumar, and CBSE chairperson Rahul Singh, the ministry sought to allay anxieties pertaining to the new marking system and repeatedly asserted it was superior to the physical marking system done on paper all these years. The OSM system was adopted earlier in 2014 but was shelved due to technical infrastructure issues.

The Secretary said, "If students wish to view their answer sheets, they can do so now by paying a fee of ₹100 instead of ₹700. If they want verification or validation of the mark sheet, that will cost ₹100 instead of ₹500. If they want any particular answer rechecked, the fee will be ₹25 per question (it was ₹100 earlier)."

He added that if the student's score in the paper shows an increase after re-evaluation, then the fee paid for the process will be reimbursed.

Singh said students can apply for the re-evaluation between May 19 and 22. To gain access to individual queries, they can apply from May 26 to May 29. "If there is a demand after these windows specified conclude, we will consider that too."

Batting for the OSM, Kumar said that over 98 lakh answer sheets were scanned and three levels of scrutiny were followed. "More than 13,000 answer sheets could not be scanned due to light ink. Hence, the examiners were asked to evaluate them manually."

**Rahul questions Centre's silence on NEET irregularities**

Reiterating his demand for the resignation of Union Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, in connection with NEET irregularities, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday asked Prime Minister Modi why the minister had not been sacked despite repeated paper leaks during his tenure. In a post on X, Gandhi also questioned the Prime Minister's "silence" on the matter.

# Murmu okays ordinance to raise top court bench strength, new count at 38

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @ New Delhi

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu promulgated an ordinance on Sunday raising the number of Supreme Court judges to 37, excluding the Chief Justice of India (CJI). The move, as government sources said, is aimed at bolstering the number of judges in the Supreme Court with the sole intention of ensuring speedy justice and quicker disposal of cases, thereby reducing pendency.

Notably, the present ordinance modifies Section 2 of the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956, substituting 'thirty-three' with 'thirty-seven'. The official gazette notification of May 16 read, "Parliament is not in session, and the President is convinced that conditions exist which make it imperative for her to act without delay."

Exercising her powers under Article 123 of the Constitution, the president promulgated the ordinance. When Parliament assembles, the ordinance must be placed before both houses. It will cease to have effect if six weeks elapse from the reassembly of Parliament with no resolution approved, or if resolutions disapproving it are passed by both Houses. The President retains the power to withdraw the ordinance as she chooses.

This step to increase the judges is being seen as an attempt to tackle the persistent backlog crisis that has troubled the court for years, especially post-pandemic after e-filing became widespread. The current arrears stand at more than 93,000 cases and could soon touch six digits.

Three more apex judges are slated to retire in 2026. Justices JK Maheshwari and Pankaj Mithal's tenure would end in June, and Justice Sanjay Karol is due to retire in August 2026.

**'Acting without delay'**

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## INSIDER TRACK

### 37 and counting: Summit race on

After an 11-year pause, one of India's biggest diplomatic gatherings is returning to New Delhi. The 4th India-Africa Forum Summit will be held on May 31, with senior officials meeting on May 28 and foreign ministers convening on May 29. So far, 37 heads of states or governments have confirmed attendance, and the race is now on to cross the benchmark of 41 leaders set during the 2015 summit. That edition transformed New Delhi into the centre of South-South engagement for a week. Preparations are moving, though unlike last time, no summit coordinator has been appointed. For MEA secretary (economic relations) Sudhakar Dalela, the summit is the second key event this month after the recently concluded BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting.

### Gor's Bengal date back in play

US ambassador Sergio Gor's recent Guwahati visit triggered political chatter stretching from Assam to West Bengal. After attending the swearing-in ceremony of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Gor travelled to Kolkata, fuelling speculation over a possible meeting with West Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari. Despite buzz and backchannel efforts, the interaction never happened, largely because of scheduling complications. Now, diplomatic and political circles suggest the meeting is back on track, with tentative dates quietly being explored for later this month. Observers believe such an interaction would carry significance beyond optics. Kolkata remains central to American diplomacy in India, housing the US Consulate, the second-oldest American diplomatic post globally, and the BJP's first government in the state's history.

### Gujarat eyes first woman top officer

The name of Gujarat's next chief secretary is a hot talking point in Gandhinagar. Incumbent Manoj Kumar Das retires later this year. With Union Home Minister Amit Shah reportedly keeping a close watch on governance in his home state, the post is drawing political attention. Sources indicate the possibility of a historic appointment, with a woman officer potentially taking charge for the first time. Two 1991-batch Gujarat cadre IAS officers are frontrunners. Jayanti Ravi, additional chief secretary in the Revenue Department, remains in service until August 2027, while Anju Sharma, additional chief secretary in the General Administration Department, continues until July 2029. Interestingly, two senior-most 1990-batch officers, C V Som and Arun Solanki, are reportedly not under consideration.

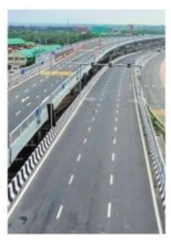
### Raghav shakes Cabinet grapevine

Speculation over a possible Union Cabinet reshuffle is once again driving political conversations in Delhi. And in Punjab. The focus is particularly on the idea of rewarding prominent entrants from rival camps with ministerial positions. Among the names circulating is former AAP Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha, who joined the BJP recently. While there is no official indication of any move, the discussion alone has generated curiosity. The timing is notable, with Punjab moving towards a crucial Assembly election and the BJP working aggressively to widen its organisational and electoral footprints. A past instance cited is of Jyotiraditya Scindia's elevation after he joined the BJP as proof of how such moves reshape political alignments at the state level.

### Turf war over digging rights

A move restricting archaeologists posted at the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) headquarters in New Delhi from undertaking excavations has sparked unease within the organisation. Officials privately questioned the logic and implications of the understanding, especially since no written policy exists barring the headquarters-based archaeologists from leading field projects. According to insiders, the shift gathered momentum after a senior deputed officer persuaded the ASI leadership that officers at the head office should prioritise administration over excavation work. Requests from at least two archaeologists seeking excavation approval were ignored recently. However, the mood inside the organisation now appears to be changing. With the deputed officer repatriated, expectations are growing that the ASI may soon restore its practice permitting headquarters-based archaeologists to undertake excavations.

# Govt to monitor state of highways, acquire survey vehicles to find potholes



**One vehicle per 60 kms**

The NSV survey will take one vehicle for examining nearly 50-60 kms in a day, the source added.

**Data to be sent to NHAI**

Data collected through NSV surveys is being transferred to a central digital repository at the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), in real time.

**PARVEZ SULTAN** @ New Delhi

AFTER focusing on improving the quality of highway construction, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has now shifted its attention towards their long-term maintenance and protection.

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the ministry has launched a nationwide programme to monitor the health of national highways, under which regular state-wise reviews of road infrastructure are being undertaken.

Further, as part of the exercise, the ministry is set to procure advanced Intelligent Pavement Assessment Vehicles (iPAVe), survey vehicles capable of collecting both structural and functional pavement condition data. According to the sources, trial runs of these high-tech fully integrated vehicles are currently underway.

Road transport and highway minister Nitin Gadkari recently reviewed the quality and maintenance of highways in Maharashtra and Goa based on inputs received through media and social media.

The ministry has already deployed Network Survey Vehicles (NSVs) across several highway corridors to assess visible surface defects such as cracking, potholes and pavement distress.

"Generally road construction is reviewed. In a major shift now, the ministry has moved beyond its construction-centric approach to long-term asset management. The purpose of the exercise is to keep a tab on the conditions of the highways we have built. The focus is now on maintenance, also. ," said a source.

# One Indian killed, three hurt in drone attack on Moscow

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** @ New Delhi

A massive overnight drone assault launched by Ukraine on Sunday killed one Indian national and injured three others in Russia's Moscow region as the conflict between Moscow and Kyiv witnessed one of its most intense aerial escalations in recent months.

In a statement posted on X, the Indian Embassy in Moscow confirmed that embassy officials had visited the injured workers in hospital following the attack. "One Indian worker has lost his life and three others have been injured in a drone attack in the Moscow region earlier today," the Embassy said. "Embassy officials have visited the location and met the injured workers in the hospital."

The embassy added that it was coordinating with local authorities and the company employing the workers to ensure assistance and support for those affected. "The Embassy condoles the loss of life and is working with the company management and local authorities to provide necessary assistance to the workers," the statement said.

A damaged house, after a Ukrainian drone attack in Khimki, just outside Moscow, Russia, on Sunday | PTI

Russian authorities described the assault as one of the largest Ukrainian drone offensives since the beginning of the war in 2022. Officials said nearly 600 drones were launched overnight, targeting several regions across western Russia, including areas surrounding Moscow.

According to local authorities, at least four people were killed and around a dozen injured in the attacks. Moscow Region Governor Andrei Vorobyev shared images showing residential buildings damaged and houses engulfed in flames in suburban districts such as Khimki, highlighting the scale of destruction.

Ukraine acknowledged responsibility for the attacks, with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy describing the operation as "entirely justified" retaliation against Russia's continuing military campaign in Ukraine. Kyiv has increasingly relied on long-range drone strikes to target Russian infrastructure and military-linked sites far from the front lines.

The latest incident yet again highlights the growing intensity of cross-border drone warfare between Russia and Ukraine, with both sides significantly expanding aerial operations in recent months. The death of the Indian worker also draws attention to the risks faced by foreign labourers and civilians caught amid the widening conflict, even in regions far from active battlefronts.

# Ayodhya's Ram Katha Museum to get 3 palm-leaf Ramayana manuscripts

**PARVEZ SULTAN** @ New Delhi

INTERNATIONAL Ram Katha Museum (IRKM) in Ayodhya is set to acquire three rare palm-leaf manuscripts of Ramayana selected by the expert committee set up for the purpose. Two of them are copies of Ramcharitmanas, which are around 250-280 years old while the third scripture is around 200 years-old. The committee will physically examine the scripts after which the texts will be formally be taken over in a function likely to be held on May 29 on the premises of Ram Temple.

The committee comprises two domain experts, representatives of the culture ministry and National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) with the director of IRKM Sanjib Kumar Singh as its convener.

The development is part of the efforts initiated by the Prime Minister's Museum and Library (PMML), under the ministry of culture, to create a National Repository of Ramayana Manuscripts (NRRM), aimed at preserving rare and ancient versions of the scripture from across India. In March, it had invited institutions, scholars, individuals, religious bodies, universities, libraries and private collectors to donate or offer rare manuscripts of the Ramayana and related texts for the proposed repository. Selected rare manuscripts will be showcased in Ram Temple and IRKM.

In two months, at least 85 individuals and institutions have reached out to the committee to offer their possessions.

Sources privy to the development said the museum had planned a function—"Matra Shakti Samman Samaroh" to celebrate the women power in Ram Temple on May 29 in which the donors may also be invited for formal handover of the manuscripts.

"Uttar Pradesh governor Anandiben Patel and Sadhvi Ritambhara have been invited for Matra Shakti Samman Samaroh proposed on May 29. The proposal is also to call owners or holders of those three selected manuscripts, on the occasion, to take their possession," said sources.

With the initiative, the PMML seeks to preserve and document the vast manuscript tradition associated with the Ramayana and its regional versions from across India.

The PMML is accepting manuscripts composed in Sanskrit, other Indian languages and also written in traditional Indian scripts.

**Formal handover likely at a ceremony at the temple**

Sources privy to the development said the museum had planned a function—"Matra Shakti Samman Samaroh" to celebrate the women power in Ram Temple on May 29 in which the donors may also be invited for formal handover of the manuscripts.

# Teen health centres short of counsellors: Unicef

**KAVITA BAJELI-DATT** @ New Delhi

INDIA'S Adolescent Friendly Health Centres (AFHCs), which provide clinical and counselling services on adolescent health, ranging from sexual and reproductive health (SRH) to nutrition, substance abuse, injuries and violence, including gender-based violence, have overburdened staff and need dedicated medical officers (MOs) and full-time adolescent health (AH) counsellors, an assessment by UNICEF has found.

Carried out under the guidance of the Health Ministry in 45 health facilities—30 Model-AFHC and 15 AFHC—spread in 15 states, the assessment also pointed out that in some facilities, counselling rooms are located within hospital premises near OPDs, where staff movement compromises privacy.

The AFHCs' assessment report also highlighted that increased workload from Model-AFHC upgrades is impacting service depth and consistency.

Released recently at an event organised by the ministry, UNICEF, and other partners on mental health and well-being for youths and adolescents, the report said that inter-district collaboration and learning opportunities are minimal.

It also highlighted the need for more support from schools and communities to enhance reach and engagement.

"Address workload issues by ensuring adequate staffing and support to sustain service quality. Deploy dedicated MOs for adolescent health services and appoint full-time AH counsellors at all facilities," the report recommended.

However, despite challenges, the report also found through in-depth interviews with counsellors that the transition from AFHC to Model AFHC has brought positive changes. Till January 2025, there were 150 M-AFHC in the country.

"The upgraded centres are now more spacious and exclusively dedicated to adolescents, creating a welcoming and non-judgemental environment that encourages adolescents to seek care with confidence. Counsellors also highlighted the availability of enhanced resources, which have improved their ability to engage and support adolescent clients effectively. However, they also acknowledged that the transition has resulted in a heavier workload," the report added.

The UNICEF-led assessment, which was conducted last year and also evaluated the centre's status, their readiness and functionality, service delivery and comparison of services and quality between AFHCs and M-AFHCs, also recommended making provision of dedicated, well-ventilated and adequately sized counselling rooms as "essential to ensure privacy and enhance the quality of care delivered to adolescents". It also suggested that the government should "maximise M-AFHCs' potential as centres of excellence, focus on inter-district collaboration through peer learning and joint training."

Emphasis was also placed on regular refresher training for counsellors, nurses, and Community Health Officers on adolescent-specific issues such as mental health, gender sensitivity, and inclusive care.

**Facilites conceptualised to offer specialised care**

In 2022, Model-AFHCs were introduced by the Union Ministry of Health. These health facilities offered upgraded services with better infrastructure, increased human resources (HR), and expanded service delivery with the aim to provide specialised care across all districts of India for India's youth. These model centres were integrated into existing AFHCs at district hospitals, with additional components added to strengthen service delivery.

**ABDUCTION CASE**

Nine persons, including a woman, have been arrested for allegedly abducting a man and subjecting him to torture in Rajasthan's Ajmer district, police said on Sunday.

1 DIES OF ELECTROCUTION IN PALGHAR ANTI-ENCROACHMENT DRIVE

| INDIA | Max | Min | | Max | Min |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | 44 | 28 | Mumbai | 33 | 30 |
| Bhopal | 42 | 30 | Panaji | 33 | 27 |
| Jaipur | 43 | 31 | Patna | 40 | 28 |
| Amritsar | 43 | 28 | Lucknow | 43 | 29 |
| Chennai | 35 | 30 | Port Blair | 31 | 27 |
| Kolkata | 38 | 29 | Imphal | 27 | 21 |
| Srinagar | 29 | 16 | Chandigarh | 41 | 28 |

# J'khand HC orders district courts to go in hybrid mode

Also tells judicial officials to adopt carpooling in view of energy crisis

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

AMID the ongoing energy crisis, the Jharkhand High Court has directed all lower courts to function in a hybrid mode with immediate effect.

Under this arrangement, court hearings and witness testimonies can be conducted virtually via video conferencing, ensuring that the judicial process continues without any interruption.

The directive has been issued to all principal district and sessions judges—including the Judicial Commissioner of Ranchi—instructing them to implement a 'hybrid mode' of functioning within the courts as well as to introduce a carpooling arrangement among judicial officers and staff.

The high court has urged that lawyers, witnesses and litigants be encouraged to embrace this digital system. Furthermore, to conserve fuel, strict orders have been issued to all judicial officers and staff to implement carpooling and vehicle-sharing arrangements among themselves.

In this regard, the Registrar General of the high court, Satyaprakash Sinha, has issued a letter to all District and Sessions Judges across the state, as well as to the Judicial Commissioner of Ranchi, stating that—given the prevailing energy crisis—all courts shall function in a 'hybrid mode' with immediate effect.

**'Embrace digital system'**

The directive has been issued to all principal district and sessions judges—including the Judicial Commissioner of Ranchi—instructing them to implement a 'hybrid mode' of functioning within the courts as well as to introduce a car-pooling arrangement among judicial officers and staff. The HC has urged that lawyers, witnesses and litigants be encouraged to embrace this digital system.

"This initiative is being taken following the direction of Chief Justice MS Sonak," said the Registrar General. The operation of HC will also be conducted in hybrid mode once the vacations are over, he added. Currently, the high court is observing its summer vacation; the court is scheduled to reopen on June 8. Instructions have also been issued to encourage advocates, litigants, and witnesses to appear virtually via video conferencing.

The HC has also clarified that during virtual hearings, the rules, guidelines, and SOPs prescribed by the Jharkhand HC must be strictly adhered to.

Besides that, all judicial officers and staff have been urged to adopt carpooling and vehicle-sharing arrangements for their daily commute to and from the court in order to ensure fuel conservation.

Earlier on Friday, a delegation of advocates had demanded to conduct the proceedings in online mode. The court that over the past few days, several petrol pumps in the state have run dry and remain closed due to the global fuel crisis.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also urged the citizens of the country to work from home. In light of this situation, it would be advisable that the hearings at the state courts be conducted online, the Jharkhand HC said.

# SIR required to weed out fake voters: Dhami

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Dehradun

UTTARAKHAND Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Sunday defended the ongoing SIR of voter lists while issuing a stern warning to those planning to carry out religious conversion and communal activities in the hill state.

Addressing a training programme under the Pt Deendayal Upadhyay Abhiyan in Champawat, Dhami hit out at Opposition parties for opposing the voter list purification drive. He asserted that the Opposition's resistance stems not from the process itself, but from a fear of transparency.

"The SIR is designed to identify and remove fake voters, infiltrators, and those who have wrongfully included their names in the electoral rolls," the Chief Minister stated.

He accused critics of harbouring a negative agenda because they thrive on systemic opacity, which, he said, the drive seeks to dismantle. He dismissed the Opposition's concerns as hypocritical, pointing out that similar revisions have been conducted previously under Congress-led governments at the Centre. The Chief Minister emphasized that the government is committed to ensuring a foolproof and transparent electoral process.

He further warned anti-social elements against acts of religious subversion.

# 'Our boys not combatants': Kuki-Zo captives' families appeal for quick release

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

THE families of 14 Kuki-Zo tribals in Manipur, allegedly held captive by the miscreants, made a fervent appeal on Sunday for their safe release.

"We address you today not with the language of politics, conflict or adversaries but with the raw, heartfelt cry of mothers, fathers, wives and children. We are the families of the 13 individuals from Taphou Kuki village and 1 from Hengbung village who are still in custody since May 13," the families wrote in the joint appeal.

They said among those held were individuals who did not take part in the conflict. They further stated that many of those detained could be suffering from failing health, psychological trauma, and severe distress. Stating that Taphou Kuki and Hengbung villages have for generations shared a beautiful, unbroken history of peace, mutual respect and brotherhood with the Naga brothers of Senapati, the families said, "Our boys have absolutely nothing to do with the wider conflict."

People from the Kuki-Zo community hit the streets of Kangpokpi on Sunday demanding the release of the 14 individuals. Over 38 people from Kuki and Naga communities were held captive by different groups after the recent killings of three church leaders by suspected militants in Kangpokpi. Two days ago, the state government stated that 28 of them had been released. Fourteen were Kukis, and the remaining 14 were Nagas. A Naga organisation in the state said six Nagas were still missing.

Kukis take out a rally in Kangpokpi on Sunday for the release of the captives

The United Naga Council on Sunday launched an "inter-district economic blockade" on the national highways in the Naga areas of Manipur, as the state government has not been able to rescue six Naga civilians held hostage allegedly by Kuki militants. Earlier, the UNC had issued a deadline demanding their rescue. The deadline was later deferred twice as the government sought time.

## BHOPAL DIARY

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singhanuraag.jaurno@gmail.com

### 5 Botswana cheetahs released in Kuno park

Five of the nine cheetahs which were flown from Botswana to MP's Kuno National Park (KNP) on February 28 have been released with radio collars into the free-ranging forests of the park situated in the Sheopur district. While two Botswana females were released into the KNP's wild on May 11, another female was set free in the jungles on May 13, followed by two others on May 15. With the release of the five Botswana females, the number of cheetahs (Namibian, South African, their Indian-born cubs and Botswana cheetahs) in the wild at KNP has risen to 15. Three remaining Botswana cheetahs, including two males and a female, are still in the protected enclosures.

### Yadav's one-on-one talks with ministers

With the Dr Mohan Yadav-led BJP government completing two and a half years, the CM is holding one-on-ones with his ministers (cabinet, ministers of state and MoS-independent charge) from May 17. The meeting will not just be focused on reviewing the performance of ministers' departments but may also cover the situation in the Assembly constituencies of individual ministers, the ministers' home districts as well as the development scenario in the district of which the individual minister is in charge. The outcome of meetings is likely to be followed by the sending of the performance report of every minister to the party's national leadership.

### Former CM asserts to be a 'true Sanatani'

Frequently dubbed as "anti-Hindu" by the ruling BJP, former CM Digvijaya Singh met with former MP minister and multiple-time BJP MLA Usha Thakur in Indore on Saturday. A video of the meeting was shared by Singh on his social media account, in which he wrote, "This is my younger sister Usha Thakur. Today in Indore, she was calling me anti-Sanatan behind my back. I was standing right there, and I immediately told her that after I said it, you people stopped saying "Hindu religion" and instead started saying "Sanatan Dharma". I am deeply devoted to Sanatan Dharma; I cannot possibly be opposed to it.

GURDASPUR

# Three held in connection with grenade throw

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chandigarh

THREE people have been arrested in connection with a grenade-hurling incident in Punjab's Gurdaspur last month, police said on Sunday.

The arrests were made by Gurdaspur police in coordination with the Counter Intelligence wing. Police also recovered a hand grenade from one of the accused.

Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav said on Sunday, "Those arrested have been identified as Amarjit Singh alias Billa, a resident of Ganesh Nagar, Rama Mandi in Jalandhar; Karanjit Singh alias Karan, a resident of Tarapur in Amritsar; and Satnam Singh, a resident of Boparai village in Amritsar."

Two unidentified youths hurled a hand grenade outside a shop near Geeta Bhawan Road in Gurdaspur on April 27. However, it did not explode as the grenade's pin remained intact, police said. Yadav added, "During the investigation, another hand grenade was also recovered from the residence of arrested accused Amarjit Singh." A preliminary probe has revealed that the accused were acting on the directions of a foreign-based handler.

# Country's first AI centre to study human-elephant conflict in Palamu soon

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

THE country's first human-elephant conflict research centre is set to be established in Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Jharkhand. The state government has prepared a proposal for the initiative and identified a nearly 15-acre site inside the reserve for the facility.

**FULL ANALYSIS**

1. The proposed centre will conduct an in-depth analysis of data related to human-elephant conflicts
2. It will prepare solution-oriented reports to help mitigate such incidents, using AI for research

The proposed centre will conduct an in-depth analysis of data related to human-elephant conflicts and prepare solution-oriented reports to help mitigate such incidents. It will also make use of AI technology for research and assessment. Although several surveys have previously been carried out on human-elephant conflict and measures such as the formation of Quick Response Teams (QRTs), this will be the country's first dedicated research facility to systematically and practically study conflict-related data from across India.

According to PTR Deputy Director, Prajesh Kant Jena, the research centre will specifically observe and analyse the types of vocalisations and sounds that elephants emit during conflict or during the process of giving birth. Assessments will be conducted to observe how elephants behave—or what vocalisations they make—when interacting with other herds, foraging for food, seeking water or signaling danger, he said. Jena said that their behaviour during the rainy, hot or cold seasons will also be studied, besides their temperament during the mating season.

"A proposal has been prepared to set up the country's first Integrated human-elephant conflict research centre in PTR. The facility will initiate research activities involving captive elephants and enable an extensive study of human-elephant conflict, including elephant behaviour, human responses, underlying causes of conflict," said Jena.

# Army airlifts donor's kidney to transplant in soldier's wife

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

THE wife of a soldier received a new lease of life after the Command Hospital, Chandimandir, in collaboration with the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences at Rohtak, successfully facilitated the retrieval and rapid air transportation of a kidney from a brain-dead road accident victim.

An army aviation helicopter executed the critical life-saving mission from Chandimandir to Rohtak and back with precision and within stringent timelines. The Western Command wrote on its official handle on X, "In a remarkable humanitarian effort, Command Hospital Chandimandir, under the aegis of HQ Western Command, in collaboration with PGIMS Rohtak, successfully facilitated the retrieval and rapid air transportation of a kidney from a brain-dead road accident victim on May 16."

The harvested organ was swiftly airlifted along with the medical team of Command Hospital for an urgent transplant procedure at Chandimandir.

The Command Hospital, Chandimandir, a tertiary care institution under the Western Command, is the Army's premier organ retrieval and transplant centre and has made pioneering advancements in this field. In the past also, hospital has performed several organ harvesting and transplant operations, providing a new lease of life to critically ill people by harvesting kidneys, pancreas, liver, heart and cornea from brain-dead patients. It was among the first in the country to undertake a pancreas transplant, said to be among the most difficult surgeries.

A few days back, in a race against time, a 14-year-old Sudanese boy was saved after a donor heart was retrieved from Command Hospital, Chandimandir, and flown to New Delhi in just 29 minutes. The coordination between the Indian Army, private medical teams, and aviation authorities marked the first-ever airborne organ mission of its kind in North India, spanning from a military hospital to a private healthcare facility. The young boy battling a terminal heart ailment at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital in New Delhi reportedly had less than 24 hours to live. In a ray of hope, a compatible donor heart was identified at the Command Hospital, as it was a 42-year-old brain-dead woman's. The hospital's organ transplant team had also retrieved her liver, pancreas and kidneys, thereby enabling multiple recipients a new lease of life through organ donation.

# J&K villagers clean spring as green tradition

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

IN the scenic village of Panzath in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, a centuries-old tradition continues to unite communities for environmental conservation to clean a natural spring named Panzath.

Every May, villagers from 45 surrounding communities gather at Panzath Nag, a vital spring that provides drinking water and irrigates paddy fields around 45 villages across south Kashmir's Qazigund area, for a day-long cleaning and fish-catching festival.

According to some local residents, Panzath Nag has derived its name from the Kashmiri term "Paanch Hath" or "five hundred"; the spring once fed numerous smaller water sources in the region. Spread over 1.5 kilometres, it is not only a lifeline for agriculture but it also provides drinking water to many villages.

On Sunday, more than a thousand villagers waded into the muddy waters armed with wicker baskets and plastic containers to remove silt, weeds, and waste material that hinders water flow.

ZAHOOR PUNJABI

**An annual festival of cleaning water & catching fish**

Every May, villagers from 45 surrounding communities gather at Panzath Nag, a vital spring that provides drinking water and irrigates paddy fields around 45 villages across south Kashmir's Qazigund area, for a day-long cleaning and fish-catching festival.

The activity, popularly known as the "fish festival", also permits villagers to catch fish, though strictly within designated areas and using traditional methods such as wicker baskets and mosquito nets rather than modern fishing gear.

Catching fish is seen as an incentive for those cleaning the spring. "This tradition has survived for centuries. Our elders taught us about it, and we continue it with pride," said Khurshid Ahmad Pandith, 55, who has participated since he was in Class Six.

"The main aim is to safeguard our natural water resources. Panzath Nag irrigates the fields of our village and about 45 adjoining villages. Cleaning it ensures water for all of us," he said. Held on a Sunday to maximise participation, the annual fish festival is a rare occasion that blends ecological stewardship with social cohesion. Villagers report that the effects of their labour are immediate: once the silt and weeds are removed, water levels rise and the spring regains its clarity and vitality. Mohammad Afzal, another local resident, emphasised the dual purpose of the festival. "This is not just fishing. By cleaning the spring, we improve water flow, restore its natural beauty, and maintain the health of this vital water body."

"It also gives new life to aquatic life," he said. Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi has mentioned Panzath spring in his Mann Ki Baat.

# 53 pilgrim deaths in Char Dham this season, Kedarnath shrine leads at 28

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

AS many as 53 pilgrims have lost their lives during the world-renowned Char Dham Yatra so far in Uttarakhand this season, with 28 deaths occurring at the Kedarnath shrine alone, official reports from the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) said.

Breaking the attendance record, over 15.63 lakh pilgrims have visited the four shrines since their commencement on April 19. Badrinath has recorded 10 deaths, while Yamunotri and Gangotri have reported 8 and 7, respectively. Health officials attribute these casualties primarily to health-related complications rather than accidents, citing heart attacks, high-altitude sickness, hypertension, and extreme weather as the leading causes.

These figures follow a troubling precedent; in 2024, the Yatra saw 246 pilgrim deaths, while the 2025 season recorded 83 fatalities.

**Pilgrims often ignore early warning signs from their bodies in their haste to complete the journey, which exacerbates heart attacks and altitude sickness**

Subodh Uniyal, Uttarakhand Health Minister

The treacherous terrain, characterised by high altitudes, lower oxygen levels, and strenuous ascents, poses significant risks, particularly to elderly pilgrims and those with pre-existing conditions.

Acknowledging the crisis, state Health Minister Subodh Uniyal emphasised the need for caution. "Pilgrims often ignore early warning signs from their bodies in their haste to complete the journey, which exacerbates heart attacks and altitude sickness," Uniyal told this newspaper. To mitigate these risks, the government has ramped up medical infrastructure. "We have established 47 hospitals along the Yatra route and deployed approximately 2,820 health personnel alongside 400 doctors at various transit points," the minister added.

Significantly, 180 doctors from Doon Medical College and Srinagar Medical College have received specialised training to handle high-altitude sickness, hypertension, and diabetes management.

**BEFORE THE KARNATAKA STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION, BASAVA BHAVAN, BENGALURU: 560 001**
**SC/29/A/737/2023**

**Appellant:** 1. Dr. Liaquth Ali Javeed S/o Sheik Muselyhuddin, Aged about 68 years, R/at: 880, 7th Main, 5th Cross, BTM 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560076.
2. Mohammed Ali Khalid S/o Sheik Muselyhuddin Aged about 72 years, R/at: 813, 12th Main, 5th Cross, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru. (By Mr. Zameer Pasha)
**Respondent:** 1. Smt. Jayalakshmi W/o Late Anil Kumar, Aged about 23 years, R/at: H.No. 138, Himagiri Medows, Gottigere, Bannergatta Main Road, Bengaluru-560083.
2.M/s.S.A.Properties, Represented by itsPartner Mr. Abbas Merchant, No.72/A-1, 1st Floor, 16th Main, BTM 1st Stage, Bengaluru-560029.
TO: 02. M/s.S.A. Properties, Represented by its Partner, Mr. Abbas Merchant, No.72/A-1,1st Floor, 16th Main, BTM 1st Stage, Bengaluru-560029.

**SUBSTITUTE NOTICE UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF THE CPC, 1908 TO THE RESPONDENT NO.02 IN ENGLISH DAILY NEWS PAPER "INDIAN EXPRESS" BENGALURU EDITION**

Whereas the Appellant has filed the above appeal Challenging the order passed by the District Consumer Commission, Bengaluru Rural & 1st Additional, in Complaint No.290/2021, Pronounced by an order dated: 15/03/2023. You are hereby notified to appear before this Hon'ble Commission in person or through a pleader or person authorized as per law to answer all the material question of facts and law relating to the Appeal on 29th Day of June Two Thousand and Twenty Six **(29/06/2026)** at 10.30 AM.
Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned above Appeal will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under the hand and seal of this Commission on this 15th day of May Two Thousand and Twenty Six (15/05/2026).

**By Order of the Commission.**
**ASST.REGISTRAR CUM ASST.ADMN.OFFICER**
**K.S.C.D.R.C, BENGALURU: 560001**
Advocate for Appellant

**BEFORE THE KARNATAKA STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION, BASAVA BHAVAN, BENGALURU: 560 001**
**SC/29/A/738/2023**

**Appellant:** 1. Dr. Liaquth Ali Javeed S/o Sheik Muselyhuddin, Aged about 68 years, R/at: 880, 7th Main, 5th Cross, BTM 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560076.
2. Mohammed Ali Khalid S/o Sheik Muselyhuddin Aged about 72 years, R/at: 813, 12th Main, 5th Cross, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru. (By Mr. Zameer Pasha)
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**By Order of the Commission.**
**ASST.REGISTRAR CUM ASST.ADMN.OFFICER**
**K.S.C.D.R.C, BENGALURU: 560001**
Advocate for Appellant

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that our client intends to develop below mentioned agricultural Lands situated at **Kadusonnappanahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk;**

**i.** Survey Number 50/3 (Old Sy No.50/1) measuring 13 Guntas and ½ Guntas Karab, and bounded on;
**East by : Government Road;**
**West by : Land belonging to Dobbi Venkatappa;**
**North by : Land in Sy No.50/5;**
**South by : Land in Survey No.50/4;**
along with its **Owner Sri.C Harsha Vardhan, son of Sri.B.N.Chandrashekar**

**ii.** Survey Number 50/5 (Old Sy No.50/1) measuring 13 ½ Guntas and ¾ Guntas Karab, and bounded on;
**East by : Government Road;**
**West by : Land belonging to Dobbi Venkatappa;**
**North by : Land in Survey No.50/1;**
**South by : Land in Sy No.50/3;**
along with its **Owners Sri.B.N Sreekanta, son of Late B.N Nagaraj and others.**

Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections / claims with documentary evidence within **7 days** from the date of this publication to the undersigned.

**Geetha Halliyal,**
**TAVISA LEGAL** Advocates
42 High Street, No.775, 2nd Floor, 100 feet Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038, Ph : 9980519476
**email : geethahalliyal@gmail.com**

**BEFORE THE KARNATAKA STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION, BASAVA BHAVAN, BENGALURU: 560 001**
**SC/29/A/739/2023**

**Appellant:** 1. Dr. Liaquth Ali Javeed S/o Sheik Muselyhuddin, Aged about 68 years, R/at: 880, 7th Main, 5th Cross, BTM 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560076.
2. Mohammed Ali Khalid S/o Sheik Muselyhuddin Aged about 72 years, R/at: 813, 12th Main, 5th Cross, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru. (By Mr. Zameer Pasha)
**Respondent:** 1. Smt. Jayalakshmi W/o Late Anil Kumar, Aged about 23 years, R/at: H.No. 138, Himagiri Medows, Gottigere, Bannergatta Main Road, Bengaluru-560083.
2.M/s.S.A.Properties, Represented by itsPartner Mr. Abbas Merchant, No.72/A-1, 1st Floor, 16th Main, BTM 1st Stage, Bengaluru-560029.
TO: 02. M/s.S.A. Properties, Represented by its Partner, Mr. Abbas Merchant, No.72/A-1,1st Floor, 16th Main, BTM 1st Stage, Bengaluru-560029.

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Given under the hand and seal of this Commission on this 15th day of May Two Thousand and Twenty Six (15/05/2026).

**By Order of the Commission.**
**ASST.REGISTRAR CUM ASST.ADMN.OFFICER**
**K.S.C.D.R.C, BENGALURU: 560001**
Advocate for Appellant

## ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸೂಚನೆ

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಮಸ್ತ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ ನನ್ನ ಕಕ್ಷಿದಾರರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಜಿ. ಪ್ರಭು, ಬಿನ್ ದಿವಂಗತ ಗೋವಿಂದಪ್ಪ, ವಯಸ್ಸು ಸುಮಾರು 51 ವರ್ಷ, ವಾಸ : ಚಿಕ್ಕ ಬೇಗೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮ, ಬೇಗೂರು ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ರವರಿಗೆ ಸೇರಿದ ಸ್ವತ್ತುಗಳು ಅಂದರೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೇಗೂರು ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಬೇಗೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದ 1) ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 205 ರ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 0- 12 ಗುಂಟೆ, 2) ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.229/2 ರ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 0-11 1/4 ಗುಂಟೆ, 3) ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.164/2 ರ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 0-29 3/4 ಗುಂಟೆ, ಮತ್ತು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೇಗೂರು ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಹೊಂಗಸಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸ್ವತ್ತುಗಳಾದ 1) ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ. 49/7 ರ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ 2040 ಚದರ ಅಡಿಗಳು, 2) ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.57/543 ರ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ ಪೂರ್ವ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ: ದಕ್ಷಿಣದ ಕಡೆ 14 ಅಡಿಗಳು, ಉತ್ತರದ ಕಡೆ: 31 ಅಡಿಗಳು, ಉತ್ತರ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ : ಪಶ್ಚಿಮದ ಕಡೆ: 31 ಅಡಿಗಳು, ಪೂರ್ವದ ಕಡೆ: 60 ಅಡಿಗಳು. ಈ ಸ್ವತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಮೂಲ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.07.2019ರ ಮೂಲ ಪತ್ರವು ಬೊಮ್ಮನ ಹಳ್ಳಿ, ಜಯನಗರ ಉಪ ನೋಂದಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಬಿ.ಎಂ.ಹೆಚ್- 1-03309/2019- 20, ಈ ಪತ್ರವು ಹೊಸೂರು ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕೂಡ್ಲು ಗೇಟ್, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬೇಗೂರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿ.ಎಂ.ಟಿ.ಸಿ. ಬಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಯಾಣಿಸುವ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಳೆದುಹೋಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಯಾರಿಗಾದರು ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರವು ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ದುರುಪಯೋಗಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳದೆ, ಕೂಡಲೇ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ನನ್ನ ವಿಳಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ತಲುಪಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ಕೇಳಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಅದನ್ನು ದುರುಪಯೋಗಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಲ್ಲಿ ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ನೀವುಗಳೇ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರರಾಗಿರುತ್ತೀರಿ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಸತೀಶ್ .ಡಿ.ಸಿ, ವಕೀಲರು, ನಂ.31, 1ನೇ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬೊಮ್ಮಸಂದ್ರ, ಯಲಹಂಕ ನ್ಯೂ ಟೌನ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 065. ಮೊಬೈಲ್ : 9844437679.

**IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY APPELLATE TRIBUNAL AT CHENNAI**
7th Floor, Additional Office Building, Shastri Bhawan, Haddows Road, Chennai-6.

**I.A. No. 318 & 319 of 2026**
**A.I.R. No. 2717 of 2025**
**R.A. [S.A] No. of 2025**

**UCO Bank,** Indira Nagar, Bengaluru, Karanataka - 560038. Rep. by its Authorized Officer **...Petitioner/Appellant**
**Vs**
**N. Shivakumar & another ...Respondents/Respondents**

To, **K. Shivakumar**, Prop. M/s. Kumaran Printers & Binders, No.45, Kumaraj Road, Near Commercial Street, Bengaluru, Karanataka - 5600 42. **...2nd Respondent**

**Whereas** the above Petitioner/Appellant has filed a Petition's in I.A. No. 318 of 2026 for Emergent and I.A. No. 319 of 2026 to condone the delay in filing appeal against order passed in S.A. No. 73 of 2024 on the file of Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Bengaluru dated 29.08.2025.

**Please take notice** that this Hon'ble Appellate Tribunal ordered notice to you for your appearance and the above case is posted to **04.06.2026.**

**Please be present** on the said date at 11.30 AM to raise your objection, if any failing which the matter will be heard in your absence and orders will be passed.

**P.S. GANESH**
Counsel for Petitioner/Appellant

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public at large that, my client Mrs. Leena Mascarenhas, wife of Mr. Rudolph Mascarenhas, aged about 74 years, R/at No. 2037, Embassy Habitat, Palace Road, Next Mohan Camel college, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560 001, that, my client is the absolute owner of the land bearing (1) survey No.81/5B, measuring 0.77 guntas, (2) survey No. 81/5BP6 measuring 0.21.25 guntas, situated at Idya Grama, Suratkal Hobli, Mangalur Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District and (3) Survey No.21/3 measuring 6 acres 14 guntas, situated at Mudaru Grama, Karkala Hobli and Taluk, Udupi District. That my client has not executed any type of General Power of Attorney to her husband Mr. Rudolph Mascarenhas S/o Late Louis Mascarenhas and recently it has come to the knowledge of my client that Mr. Rudolph Mascarehas S/o Late Louis Mascarenhas has lease the above said properties to third person through General Power of Attorney. Therefore I hereby inform the General Public that, I am revoking /cancelling all the General Power of Attorney in the name of Mr. Rudolph Mascarenhas S/o Late Louis Mascarenhas and any person/s, companies, institutions entered into the any type of agreement with Mr. Rudolph Mascarenhas S/o Late Louis Mascarenhas is not binding on my client and if any person is in possession of the above said land will be treated as illegal possession and hereby direct to vacate the premises immediately. Failing which my client will be constrained to take a legal action both civil and criminal proceedings against the person/s who are in illegal possession of the above said lands.

**Sd/- B.K. Kumar Raju,** Advocate
Office at No. 136, Residency Road, Bengaluru. Mobile No. 8197316429
kumarraju.legal@gmail.com

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public at large that, my client Mr. Renwick Angelo, Son of Mr. Rudolph Mascarenhas, aged about 51 years, R/at No. 1206, Wing One, Bren Imperia, 15th Main Road, Haralur, Bangalore - 560 102, that, my client is the absolute owner of the land bearing (1) survey No.21/15 measuring 0-01.81 guntas, (2) survey No. 21/12 measuring 0.18 guntas, (3) survey No.21/14 , measuring 0-47 guntas, situated at Mudaru Grama, Karkala Hobli and Taluk, Udupi District. That my client has not executed any type of General Power of Attorney to his father Mr. Rudolph Mascarenhas S/o Late Louis Mascarenhas and recently it has come to the knowledge of my client that Mr. Rudolph Mascarehas S/o Late Louis Mascarenhas has lease the above said properties to third person through General Power of Attorney. Therefore I hereby inform the General Public that, I am revoking/cancelling all the General Power of Attorney in the name of Mr. Rudolph Mascarenhas S/o Late Louis Mascarenhas and any person/s, companies, institutions entered into the any type of agreement with Mr. Rudolph Mascarenhas S/o Late Louis Mascarenhas is not binding on my client and if any person is in possession of the above said land will be treated as illegal possession and hereby direct to vacate the premises immediately. Failing which my client will be constrained to take a legal action both civil and criminal proceedings against the person/s who are in illegal possession of the above said lands.

**Sd/- B.K. Kumar Raju,** Advocate
Office at No. 136, Residency Road, Bengaluru. Mobile No. 8197316429
kumarraju.legal@gmail.com

# The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd.,

.O, No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru-560018.
Phone 26677552, 26679041
Estd:1927

## POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

[ APPENDIX IV (RULE 8(1) ]

**Where as the undersigned being the authorised officer of The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstructionof Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules. at The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.**

**The borrowers in the following accounts having failed to repay the amount, notice is here by given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described here in bellow in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned herein below. The borrowers in particular and the public in general is/are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited for amount and interest on & other charges.**

**Date of Possession: 14.05.2026**

| Name of the Borrower/Surety & Description of the Property Mortgaged | Amount outstanding |
|---|---|
| **Applicant: Smt Kuppamma W/o late N.Venkataraju**<br>**Surety: Smt Sindhu J W/o Sri Janardhan V**<br>All that piece and parcel of the residential Property bearing No.37 (Old No.392) PID No.9-9-37, situated at 8th Main "A' Block Subramanyanagar, Bangalore, (previously Rajajinagar 2nd stage). Measuring East to West: 36 feet & North to South: 25 feet total measuring 900 Sq.Ft., along with 500 Sq.Ft., residential building and bounded on East By: Road, West By: Site No.394, North By: Site No.393 and South By: Site No.391. | **35,58,306/- + Int. thereon 14.05.2026** |

**Amount paid if any by any of the above borrowers after issuance of Possession Notice, would be reckoned for ascertaining the dues payable at the time of realisation / settlement.**

**Place: Bangalore**
**Date: 14.05.2026**

Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd., Bangalore -18

## KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
**Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti- 586201.**
**E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com**

No: KBJNL/DDA/Quotation/2026-27/267 Dated:14.05.2026

**SHORT TERM QUOTATION**

Requested to submit the quotation rates for the following works related to the Almatti Dam. The details of the works are as follows.

| Sl No | Name of Work | Unit | Rate per unit quantity (Excluding GST) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **Data Collection for Dam Inspection using Digital and Automated Defect Mapping Technology (above water concrete structures):** Deployment of drone-based high resolution optical, thermal and acoustic inspection systems for detailed condition assessment of above water concrete structures like dam, spillway, piers, and accessible dam surfaces including all Site Preparation/Set up Cost/Admin/ Logistics, Mobilization & De-mobilization, Complete Above Water Concrete Structure Data Collection including: 1) Dam Body: i) Optical Data (up to 3mm/pixel), ii) Thermal Data, iii) Acoustic Data (up to 200mm depth) 2) Embankment: i) Optical Data (up to 10mm/pixel) including cost of all materials, machinery, labor, transportation, etc. complete with all leads and lifts as directed by Engineer in charge. | **Job** | |
| 2 | **Creation of Digital Baseline and Monitoring Frame work:** Establishing a digital baseline model of the structure, Preparation of high-resolution 3D model and 2D raster, crack and defect mapping, surface profiling, anomaly detection and cloud-based visualization platform including data processing, analytics, and reporting including Cloud Platform Access, Data Transferring on cloud platform for visual defect mapping, Reports (Spreadsheet & CAD files), Repeatable automated inspections, integration of inspection datasets on cloud platform, comparative assessment, defect progression monitoring, and engineering analysis including Comparison Mode (2nd survey onwards) and Change Layer Detection (2nd survey onwards) and Training to Engineers including cost of all materials, machinery, labor, transportation, etc. complete with all leads and lifts as directed by Engineer in charge. | **Job** | |

For further information, it is requested that you visit the office of the undersigned in person to collect complete details of the work. It is also advised to inspect the site prior to submitting your quotation to better understand the scope of work. Quotations may be submitted either in sealed cover or via email.
Last date for submission of quotation: 22.05.2026
Contact e-mail Address: dam_division@rediffmail.com
Contact Mobil No: Sri Tarasing Dodamani, EE Mob No: 94484 05892
Sri Vithal Jadhav, AE Mob No: 89713 61932

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,**
**KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti**

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/103/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27

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**BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II AT BENGALURU**
BSNL Building , 4th Floor, Telephone House Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore -560 001

**O.A. No.600/2022**

**Between: State Bank of India ...Applicant**
**And**
**M/s. Manjunatha Swamy HP Gas Agency & Anr. ....Defendants**

**SUMMONS /NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS RULE 23(VIII) OF DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION**

To, **1. M/s. Manjunathaswamy HP Gas Agency,** Prop: Shruthi K. C. D/o.Mr. Channappa, R/@: MIG-1 No. 51/A, KHB Colony Bidadi, Ramanagara Taluk & Dist - 562 109, Kempanahalli Village, Mayaga nahalli Post, Ramanagara Dist.- 562 128. ,
**2. Sri Anilkumar M.,** S/o. Muddanna, R/2: No. 135, 4th Cross Road, 4th Main, BHEL Layout, Kenchenahalli, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore - 560 098.

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application /interloctory application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against the defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.75,30,100/-** together with current and future interest and for other reliefs.
The above mentioned defendent(s) is/are therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorised agent of his/their defence to to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or **on 22.06.2026 at 10.30 a.m.,** (forenoon) as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **21.02.2026**

By Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore

**IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF THE II Addl. CIVIL JUDGE BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT AT BENGALURU O.S. NO.:1242/2025**

**BETWEEN:**
Sri. L. NAGARAJA, S/o. M. Lingachar, Aged about 64 Years, Residing at No. 18, 1st Main Road, 2nd Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madivala, Bengaluru-68 **...Plaintiff**
**AND:**
**1.**Mr. Mansoor Khan, S/o. Phylavan Ustad, Aged about 43 Years, Residing at No.11, 4th Cross, 'B' Block, Shubhash Nagar, Begur, Bengaluru 560 068. **2.** Mr. Hidayatullah, S/o. Kulmi Kaleem, Aged about 47 Years, Residing at #.10, 4th Cross, 'B' Block, Shubhash Nagar, Begur, Bengaluru 560 068.3. Mr. Kumar, S/o. Ranganath, Aged about 42 Years, Residing at No.55, 2nd Cross, 'B' Block, Shubhash Nagar, Begur, Bengaluru 560 068.**4.** Mr. Auto Amjad, S/o. Syed Mehaboob, Aged about 39 Years, Residing at No. 114, Near Grave Yard, 'B' Block, Shubhash Nagar, Begur, Bengaluru - 560 068. **5.** Mr. Mysore Saleem, S/o. Eqbal, Aged about 45 Years, Residing at No.5/B. 2nd Cross, B' Block. Shubhash Nagar, Begur, Bengaluru-560 068. **6.** Mr. Tannu, S/o. Md. Inyath, Aged about 41 Years, Residing at No.4/1. 'B' Block, Shubhash Nagar, Beguru, Bengaluru-68 **7.** Mr. Das, S/o. George Michael, Aged about 49 Years, Residing at No. 1, Near Church Road, 'B' Block, Shubhash Nagar, Beguru, Bengaluru 560 068. **8.** Mr. Auto Shivu, S/o. Ramachandra, Aged about 40 Years, Residing at No.36/1A, Shubhash Nagar, Begur, Bengaluru-560068. **9.** Mrs. Jaya, W/o. Maryan George, Aged about 39 Years, Residing at No. 132, Near Church, Shubhash Nagar, Begur,Bengaluru-68. **...Defendants**

**NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT NO.6,7,8 & 9**

**To: 6.** Mr. Tannu, S/o. Md. Inyath, Aged about 41 Years, Residing at No.4/1. 'B' Block, Shubhash Nagar, Beguru, Bengaluru- 560068. **7.** Mr. Das, S/o. George Michael, Aged about 49 Years, Residing at No. 1, Near Church Road, 'B' Block, Shubhash Nagar, Beguru, Bengaluru-68. **8.** Mr. Auto Shivu, S/o. Ramachandra, Aged about 40 Years, Residing at No.36/1A, Shubhash Nagar, Begur, Bengaluru-560068. **9.** Mrs. Jaya, W/o. Maryan George, Aged about 39 Years, Residing at No. 132, Near Church, Shubhash Nagar, Begur, Bengaluru-68.Take notice that the above named Plaintiff has filed this suit for the relief of declaration and injunction. The **6,7,8 & 9** defendant is hereby called upon to appear before this Hon'ble Court 07/07/2026 at 11.00 A.M. either in person or through their Pleader and if you fail to appear on the aforesaid date and time, the Honorable Court will take note of your absence and on will proceed with the matter in accordance with law.

**SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Survey No.148/2, measuring to an extent of 0-17 1/4 Gunta, situted at BEGUR VILLAGE, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk Bengaluru and bounded on the;East by: Road, West by: Survey No.148/1,North by: Property of L. Nagraja, South by:Survey No.148/2 and 20 Feet Road SUIT

**SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Property #. 1106/148/2, e-PID Khatha No.148/2, No.4773561269, measuring East to West:155-0 Feet or 47.2 Meters and North to South: 60 Feet or 18.3 Meters,in all measuring 9,300 Square Feet or 864 Square Meters, situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru, now comes under the Administrative Jurisdiction of Greater Bengaluru Authority, Bengalur (erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Pa Bengaluru) and bounded on theEast by: Road, West by: Private Property, North: Road &, South: RoadGiven under my hand and seal of this Hon'ble Court on this 15th day of May 2026 at Bengaluru.

**By Order of the Court Sheristedar PRL Civil Judge's Court Bengaluru (R) Dist, Bangalore**
**B. VENKATA REDDY,** Advocate,
C A Site No.8, Chambers-2, First Floor, 60 Feet Road, 18th Main Road, Padmanabhanagar, Bengaluru-560 070.Phone: 9448323946/9481026915

QuoteExpress IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE ) NELSON MANDELA

# WIZZMONI FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED

(formerly Unimoni Financial Services Limited)
RO: N.G. 12 & 13 Ground Floor, North Block, Manipal Centre, Dickenson Road, Bangalore - 560 042. CIN No. U85110KA1995PLC018175

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by WIZZMONI FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED (formerly Unimoni Financial Services Limited) on **25.05.2026** at 10:00 am at the respective centers given below. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Overdue Loan Accounts of our various Customers mentioned below with branch name.

**Auction Centre Address & Loan Nos: BANGALORE - RT NAGAR (BRT - 94/1, NSN COMPLEX, IST FLOOR,1st CROSS, NR GANGA NAGAR BUSSTOP ,GANGA NAGAR,RT NAGAR-560032, Contact no: 9880453732) 2248696, 2248700.**

**(Reserves the right to alter the number of accounts to be auctioned &/ postpone / cancel the auction without any prior notice)**

## IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, AT BENGALURU

**Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services Debt Recovery Tribunal-II Karnataka (Bengaluru), 4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru, pin code-560001**

O.A. No. 860/2017

**BETWEEN**
**M/s Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited ...APPLICANT**
**AND**
**1. M/s. Hi-Tech Industries,** Rep by its proprietor Mr.T.Gopinath, #565-6436C, shed No.40&41, Doresnaipalya, Bannergatta Road, Bengaluru-560076.
**ALSO AT :** #161/1, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Bhairaveshwara Industries Estate, Andrahalli Main Road, Hegganahalli, Bengaluru-560091.
**ALSO AT: T.Gopinath, S/o Mr.Thimme Gowda,** #94,2nd CRS, Uday Nagar, Chikkalasandra, Uttarahalli Main Road, Bengaluru-560061.
**ALSO AT : T.Gopinath, S/o Mr.Thimme Gowda,** #383, 22nd Main AGS Layout, Arehalli Village, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru-560061. **...DEFENDANT NO. 1**
**3. Mrs.K.S.Vinutha, W/o T.Gopinath,** #94, 2nd CRS, Uday Nagar, Chikkalsandra, Uttarahalli Main Road, Bengaluru-560061.
**ALSO AT: Mrs.K.S.Vinutha W/o T.Gopinath,** #383, 22nd Main, AGS Layout, Arehalli Village, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru-560061. **...DEFENDANT NO. 3**

**NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993**

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an application Under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the Defendants for Recovery of a sum of **INR. 4,39,29.664.00 (Rupees Four Crores Thirty Nine lakhs Twenty Nine Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty Four only)** together with current and future interest and other reliefs.
The above Defendants are therefore, hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorized agents in support of their defense to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **18.06.2026 at 10.30 A.M.,** as to why relief's prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this tribunal on this **14th day of May 2026.**

**Sd/- REGISTRAR**
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BENGALURU**

NEXT HEARING DATE:18.06.2026

**IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU CCH:6 P& SC No.165/2026**

**PETITIONERS**
**1. B. Rajamma,** Aged About 79 Years W/o Late R. Rangaiah, 1068/32, 35th 'D' Cross, Near Sudharshan School, 4th T Block Jayanagar, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Jayanagar, Karnataka-560 041.
**2. R Prema,** Aged About 74 Years D/o Late R. Rangaiah, # 1797, Ratansingh Road, 15th Cross, Mandi Mohalla, Mysore, Karnataka-570021.
**3. R. Bharathi,** Aged About 64 Years D/o Late R. Rangaiah, #101/1, 3rd Cross, A R Extention, Nr. Lavanya Lodge, Ghandhinagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore, KG Road, Karnataka-560 009
**4. R. Latha,** Aged About 63 Years D/o Late R. Rangaiah, 65/1, Hospital Road, Near Abinay Theatre, Balepet, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka 560053.
**5. R. Devaki,** Aged About 60 Years D/o Late R. Rangaiah, #1068/32, 35th 'D' Cross, Sudharshan School, 4th T Block Jayanagar, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Jayanagar, Karnataka-560 041

**-V/s-**

**RESPONDENT NILL**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Whereas** the above named filed this petition under Section 372 AND 373 of Indian Succession Act for the grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the Petitioner in respect of schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule was held by R Anil Kumar who is none other than the brother of Petitioners. The said R Anil Kumar expired on 27.04.2022.
Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before this court in person or by pleader duly instructed **on 18.06.2026 at 11 a.m.** inform to show cause against the petitioners failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as Ex-parte.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**
**(Movable Properties of the Deceased Sri R. Anil Kumar)**

**ITEM NO. 1**
**STATE BANK OF INDIA**
CBAB Complex Branch, Kaveri Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560 009
**Fixed Deposits:**

| Sl.No | Amount | FD Number | Date of Maturity |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Rs. 4,00,000/- | 36746638121 | 10.04.2018 |
| 2. | Rs. 4,00,000/- | 36740284493 | 06.04.2018 |
| 3. | Rs. 7,00,000/- | 35776337181 | 18.05.2017 |
| 4. | Rs. 7,00,000/- | 35776335559 | 18.05.2017 |
| 5. | Rs. 5,00,000/- | 35048814041 | 08.07.2017 |
| 6. | Rs. 7,00,000/- | 34871591816 | 28.04.2017 |
| 7. | Rs. 8,00,000/- | 35323838458 | 04.05.2017 |
| 8. | Rs. 6,00,000/- | 36318268226 | 16.12.2017 |
| **Total** | **Rs. 48,00,000/-** | | |

**ITEM NO. 2**
**STATE BANK OF INDIA**
CBAB Complex Branch, Kaveri Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru – 560 009
**Savings Bank Account:**
**SB Account No. 30952400504 — Balance: Rs.17,07,535/-**
(Rupees Seventeen Lakhs Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Thirty-Five Only)
[excluding accrued interest]

**ITEM NO. 3**
**UNION BANK OF INDIA**
**(Erstwhile known as Corporation Bank)**
118, 1st Floor, TV Complex, Khilari Road, Bengaluru – 560 053
**Fixed Deposits:**

| Sl.No | Amount | FD Number | Date of Maturity |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Rs. 4,00,000/- | 60/160028002179 | 17.05.2016 |
| 2. | Rs. 4,00,000/- | 60/160029002179 | 17.05.2016 |
| **Total** | **Rs. 8,00,000/-** | | |

**ITEM NO. 4**
**UNION BANK OF INDIA**
**(Erstwhile known as Corporation Bank)**
118, 1st Floor, TV Complex, Khilari Road, Bengaluru – 560 053
**Savings Bank Account:**
**SB Account No. 01/009110 — Balance: Rs.3,50,000/-**
(Rupees Three Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only) [excluding accrued interest]

**Given under my hand & seal of the court, this 4th day of May 2026.**

Address for Service
**B. Rangaswamy,** Advocate,
KAR/333/1993
No.22, 2nd Floor, Railway Parallel Road,
Nehru Nagar, Bangalore:560020.
Mob:9844083239 Email: klaadvocates@gmail.com

**By Order of the Court,**
**Assistant Registrar**
**CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE AT BANGALORE**

# Can Fin Homes Ltd

Can Fin Homes Ltd (Sponsor: CANARA BANK)
**Begur Branch**
No.2&4, 1st Floor, Shanthi Priya Layout Devarachikkanahalli Road, Behind Begur Govt. High School, Bangalore 560068.Tel:080-25740123 Mob:7625079200
Email:begur@canfinhomes.com
**CINL85110KA1987PLC008699**

## SALE NOTICE

[proviso to rule 8(6)]
**Sale notice for sale of immovable properties**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
NOTICE is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower **MR. SEENAPPA S/o Thirupatha Chari and MRS. BHAGYAMMA W/o Mr. Seenappa** and that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd., Begur Branch, will be sold by holding e-auction on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **24-06-2026,** for recovery of **Rs. 39,51,847/-** (Rupees Thirty-Nine Lakhs Fifty-One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-Seven Rupees Only) due to Can Fin Homes Ltd. from **Mr. Seenappa and Mrs. Bhagyamma,** as on 16-05-2026, together with further interest and other charges thereon.
The reserve price will be **Rs. 98,00,000/-** (Rupees Ninety-Eight Lakhs Only) and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.9,80,000/-** (Rupees Nine Lakhs Eighty Thousand Only)

**SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSET**

All the piece and parcel of the Residential property bearing site no 30, Property no 105/1, Khatha no 105/1, Situated at Mylasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes under Doddathoguru Village Panchayath limits measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet, in all measuring 1200 Sq.ft and bounded on: East: Site no 43, West: Road, North: Site no 31, South: Site no 29.
**Encumbrances : Nil**

The detailed terms and conditions of the sale are provided in the official website of Can Fin Homes Ltd., (https://www.canfinhomes.com/SearchAuction.aspx).Link for participating in e-auction : www.auctionbazaar.com

**Date: 16.05.2026** Sd/-
**Place:Bangalore** Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.

## THE KARNATAKA STATE COOPERATIVE APEX BANK LTD.

**No. 1, 'UTHUNGA', Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru -18**
**Ph: 080-26983700, 26983722, 22976600**
Email:-recoverycell@karnatakaapex.bank.in
APEX

**POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8(1)] (For Immovable Property)**

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of The Karnataka State Co-Operative Apex Bank Ltd., under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice dated 25.11.2025** calling upon the **Borrowers; (1) Sri Praveen Kumar.S., S/o. Changaiah.S.M., (2) Sri Jagadeesh.C., S/o.Changaiah.S.M.,** Both are R/at: No.214, 5th Main Road, Behind Vidyapeeta, BSK 3rd Stage, Thyagarajanagar, Gururaja Layout, Bengaluru-560 028, Guarantor; (3) Sri Suresh.P., S/o.Prakash, No.107, 5th Cross, T.G. Layout, Ittamadu, Bengaluru-560085, to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being **Rs.36,32,132/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Thirty Two Thousand One Hundred and Thirty Two Only)** as on 15.11.2025 together with future interest thereon at contractual rate of interest along with cost and charges within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub Section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **14th Day of May 2026.**

The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **The Karnataka State Co-Operative Apex Bank Ltd., Kengeri Satellite Town Branch** for an amount of **Rs.36,32,132/- (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Thirty Two Thousand One Hundred and Thirty Two Only)** as on 15.11.2025 together with future interest thereon at contractual rate of interest and costs and charges till the date of realization.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

**- DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE SCHEDULE PROPERTY-**

**Schedule-'A'**
**(Entire Property bearing Site No.214)**
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.214, including land and Constructed building as per BDA approved plan still floor plus 3 floors 6x4=24 Sqmtr, building New Municipal No.214, PID No.54-57-214 in the layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, situated in 5th Main, Banashankari III Stage, Behind Vidya Peeta Extension, BBMP Ward No.54, Bangalore, measuring East to West 9.70 Meters and North to South 6.09 Meters and bounded on: **East by:** Road, **West by**: Site No.221, **North by**: Site No.213, **South by**: Site No.215.

**Schedule-'B'**
**(allotted to the share of Sri Praveen Kumar.S)**
All that Northern half portion in the immovable property bearing Site No.214, New Municipal No.214, PID No.54-57-214, in the layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, situated in 5th Main, Banashankari III Stage, Behind Vidya Peeta Extension, BBMP Ward No.54, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 10 feet along with the building constructed therein and bounded on: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Site No.221, **North by:** Site No.213, **South by:** Portion (Schedule 'C') allotted to Sri C. Jagadeesh.

**Schedule-'C'**
**(allotted to the share of Sri C.Jagadeesh)**
All that Southern half portion in the immovable property bearing Site No.214, New Municipal No.214, PID No.54-57-214, in the layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, situated in 5th Main, Banashankari III Stage, Behind Vidya Peeta Extension, BBMP Ward No.54, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 10 feet along with the building constructed therein and bounded on: **East by:** Road**, West by:** Site No.221, **North by:** Portion (Schedule 'B') allotted to Sri Praveen Kumar. **South by:** Site No.215.

Sd/-
**AUTHORISED OFFICER**
**Date: 14/05/2026**
**Place: Bengaluru** **The K.S.C Apex Bank Ltd., Chamarajpet, Bengaluru – 560 018**

**JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK** (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)
**Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.**

## DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

| Sr. No. | Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor | Loan Account No. & Loan Amount | Details of the Security to be enforced | Date of NPA & Demand Notice date | Amount Due in Rs. / as on |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1) Mrs. Roopa R, W/o. Mr. Rangaswamy, 2) Mr. Rangaswamy, S/o. Mr. Krishnappa | Loan Account No. 47469420002772 47469430001762 Loan Amount: Rs.10,26,370/- Rs.9,00,000/- | **Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Southern Portion of Site bearing No.07, Katha No.41, Assessment No.30/3, situated at Kadaranahalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and **Bounded on the: East by:** Private property, **West by:** 25 feet road, **North by:** Remaining northern portion of the same Site No.7, **South by:** Site No.8. Measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 20 feet, in all measuring 800 Sq.feet. | Date of NPA: 04-05-2026 Demand Notice Date: 15-05-2026 | **Rs.20,15,764.10** (Rupees Twenty Lakh Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Four and Ten Paisa Only) **due as on 13-05-2026** |

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

**Date: 16.05.2026, Place: Bangalore** **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

**Ten people,** including a minor, were shot dead in central Mexico ahead of next month's World Cup

**GLOBAL WEATHER**

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beijing | 21 | 1 | SNY | Los Angeles | 20 | 12 | SNY |
| Colombo | 28 | 24 | SNY | Melbourne | 26 | 15 | LC |
| Dhaka | 31 | 19 | SNY | Moscow | 4 | 2 | SNY |
| Dubai | 26 | 21 | SNY | New York | 7 | 2 | SNY |
| Houston | 31 | 19 | TDS | Singapore | 28 | 25 | TDS |
| Istanbul | 33 | 21 | SNY | Toronto | 1 | -5 | SNY |
| London | 13 | 9 | SNY | Washington | 3 | -2 | SNY |

# Drone strike hits UAE nuclear plant; tests truce, raises fears of war again

Perimeter fire reported at plant; no injuries, radiation leak or claim of responsibility so far

**DUBAI**

A drone strike targeted the United Arab Emirates' sole nuclear power plant on Sunday, sparking a fire on its perimeter. There were no reports of injuries or radiological release, but it highlighted the risk of renewed war as the Iran ceasefire remains tenuous.

No one immediately claimed responsibility, and the UAE did not blame anyone. It has however accused Iran of launching drone and missile attacks in recent days as tensions rise over the Strait of Hormuz, a vital energy waterway still gripped by Iran, which is under a US naval blockade. The UAE has hosted air defenses and personnel from Israel, which joined the US in the February 28 attack that sparked the war.

US President Donald Trump has suggested hostilities could resume and was expected to speak with Israel's prime minister on Sunday. Iranian state television has aired segments with news anchors holding rifles in an effort to prepare the public for war. Diplomatic efforts aimed at a more durable peace have faltered.

Fighting has also heated up between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon despite a nominal ceasefire there, further straining the wider truce.

The UAE Defense Ministry said three drones had come over its western border with Saudi Arabia, with the other two intercepted. It was investigating who launched them. Iran and Iranian-backed Shiite militias in Iraq have launched repeated drone attacks targeting Gulf Arab states in the war. The $20 billion Barakah nuclear power plant was built by the UAE with the help of South Korea and went online in 2020. It is the only nuclear power plant in the Arab world and can provide a quarter of the energy needs in the UAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms that is home to Dubai.

The UAE's nuclear regulator said on X the fire didn't affect plant safety and "all units are operating as normal." Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, later said he spoke by phone with his South Korean counterpart.

The Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, said the strike caused a fire in an electrical generator and one reactor was being powered by emergency diesel generators. *AP*

WAR WATCH

First responders inspect damage following Israeli bombardment on the village of Deir Qanoun al-Nahr in southern Lebanon | AFP

# Ukraine's massive drone wave against Russia kills 4, injures 12

**KYIV**

ONE of Ukraine's largest drone strikes on Russia killed at least four people, including three near Moscow, and wounded a dozen others, local authorities said Sunday. Debris fell on Russia's largest airport without causing damage.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed the drone strikes, saying that they were "entirely justified." Russia has repeatedly launched similar attacks on Ukraine's capital and other cities during the war, and an expert said that the strikes appeared to be retaliation for recent Russian attacks on Kyiv.

Russian drone strikes on Ukraine overnight wounded eight people, Ukrainian authorities said. In Ukraine's strikes on Russia, a woman was killed after a drone hit her home in Khimki, a Russian city just northwest of Moscow, and two men died in the village of Pogorelki, which is 10 kilometers (6 miles) north of the capital, according to local Gov. Andrei Vorobyev.

Ukrainian drones had also damaged unspecified "infrastructure" and several high-rise buildings, Vorobyev said on social media. One man was also killed after a drone struck a truck in the Belgorod region, which borders Ukraine, according to local authorities.

In Moscow itself, at least 12 people were wounded in the nighttime strike, mostly near the entrance to the city's oil refinery, mayor Sergei Sobyanin reported. Sobyanin reported that the "technology" of the refinery hadn't been damaged. Hours later, the Indian Embassy in Moscow reported that an Indian worker died in a drone strike "in (the) Moscow region," while three other Indian nationals were hospitalized with injuries. It wasn't immediately clear whether the worker was one of the three people reported dead by Moscow region officials, or a further fatality. Russia's largest airport — Moscow's Sheremetyevo — said that drone debris had fallen on its grounds without causing damage or affecting flights. *AFP*

A house on fire after a Ukrainian attack in Khimki, just outside Moscow, Russia | AP

# Iran says US proposal response lacked 'tangible concessions' on key demands

**TEHRAN**

IRANIAN media said Sunday that the United States had failed to make any concrete concessions in its latest response to Iran's proposed agenda for negotiations to end the war.

The Fars news agency said Washington had presented a five-point list which included a demand for Iran to keep only one nuclear site in operation and transfer its stockpile of highly enriched uranium to the United States. The US also refused to release "even 25 percent" of Iran's frozen assets abroad or pay any reparations for the damage inflicted on Iran during the war which broke out on February 28, according to Fars.

The report added that the US had conditioned the cessation of hostilities on all fronts on the start of negotiations. The Mehr news agency, meanwhile, said: "The United States, offering no tangible concessions, wants to obtain concessions that it failed to obtain during the war, which will lead to an impasse in the negotiations." In its proposal, Iran had called for an end of the war on all fronts including Israel's campaign in Lebanon, as well as a halt to the US naval blockade on Iranian ports in place since April 13.

It also called for lifting all of the US sanctions and the release of Iranian assets frozen abroad under longstanding US sanctions, according to the Iranian foreign ministry in a press conference last week.

Fars said the Iranian proposal had emphasised that Tehran would continue to manage the strategic Strait of Hormuz, a vital energy conduit which it has largely kept closed since the start of the war. On Sunday, Iranian armed forces spokesman warned Donald Trump against restarting attacks on Iran. *AFP*

**Pak pushes Iran-US peace efforts again**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Tehran amid efforts to revive Iran-US peace talks. The visit followed US President Donald Trump rejecting Tehran's latest proposal. Pakistani mediation helped maintain a fragile ceasefire, while talks remain deadlocked over sanctions, uranium stockpiles and Iran's nuclear programme.

**Israel 'close' to killing October 7 masterminds**

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel was close to eliminating all masterminds behind Hamas's October 7 attack after the killing of Hamas commander Ezzedine Al-Haddad in a Gaza strike. Netanyahu said Israeli forces now control 60% of Gaza. Gaza says over 72,700 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in the war.

**WHY KEIR STARMER IS UNDER PRESSURE?**

- Growing public dissatisfaction with Prime Minister Keir Starmer
- Labour MPs reportedly faced voter anger during recent campaigns
- Resignation of former Health Secretary Wes Streeting intensified speculation over leadership change
- Concerns over lack of "political vision" within the government

Keir Starmer

**WHO AFTER STARMER?**

LABOUR WEIGHS ITS NEXT MOVE AS PRESSURE MOUNTS ON THE UK PRIME MINISTER AMID GROWING PUBLIC DISCONTENT

**WHY IT MATTERS**

- UK facing economic and political instability
- Labour divided over future direction
- New leader could inherit worsening financial pressures

**TOP CONTENDERS**

**WES STREETING**

• Backed by Labour's right wing • Needs support from 81 MPs • Seen as too "Blairite" by critics

**ANGELA RAYNER**

• Popular with party members • Represents Labour's "soft left" • May struggle with centrists

**ANDY BURNHAM**

• Most popular with the public • **Approval ratings:** +6 • Could return to Westminster via by-election

# Taiwan says it will never be 'traded away' by China

**TAIPEI**

TAIWANESE President Lai Ching-te said on Sunday that Taiwan will never be "traded away" as he pressed the United States to keep selling weapons to the island democracy to maintain regional peace.

Lai's comments came after Donald Trump suggested arms sales to Taiwan could be used as a bargaining chip with China, which claims the island is part of its territory and has threatened to seize it by force.

Trump wrapped up a state visit to Beijing on Friday where Chinese President Xi Jinping had pushed him not to support Taiwan, which depends heavily on US security backing to deter a potential Chinese attack.

"The United States' continued arms sales to Taiwan and deepening of Taiwan-US security cooperation are not only necessary but also key elements in maintaining regional peace and stability," Lai said in a statement on Facebook.

Taiwan's Lai Ching-te said the island, a global AI and semiconductor hub, "will never be sacrificed or traded away" after Donald Trump suggested arms sales to Taiwan could be used as a bargaining chip in negotiations with China, alarming Taipei and raising concerns over Washington's security commitment to the island. *AFP*

# WHO declares Ebola outbreak global health emergency

**ABUJA**

THE World Health Organization declared the Ebola disease outbreak caused by a rare virus in Congo and neighboring Uganda a public health emergency of international concern on Sunday, after more than 300 suspected cases and 88 deaths.

WHO said that the outbreak doesn't meet the criteria of a pandemic emergency like Covid-19, and advised against the closure of international borders. WHO said on X that a laboratory-confirmed case has also been reported in Congo's capital, Kinshasa, which is about 1,000 kilometers from the outbreak's epicenter in the eastern province of Ituri, suggesting a possible wider spread.

People wait to have their temperature taken in front of Kibuli Muslim Hospital in Kampala, Uganda | AP

It said the patient had visited Ituri and that other suspected cases have also been reported in North Kivu province, which is one of Congo's most populous and borders Ituri.

On Sunday, the rebel government of Goma, Eastern Congo's largest city, confirmed in a statement that the first confirmed case of Ebola was detected in the city. The infected person traveled from Ituri province and was currently under isolation, the statement said. Goma was the site of a rapid rebel offensive in early 2025, and the conflict between the Congolese armed forces and the Rwanda-backed M23 rebel paramilitary group has displaced hundreds of thousands.

Ebola is highly contagious and can be contracted via bodily fluids such as vomit, blood or semen. The disease it causes is rare, but severe and often fatal. WHO's emergency declaration is meant to spur donor agencies and countries into action. By WHO's standards, it shows the event is serious, there is a risk of international spread and it requires a coordinated international response.

The global response to previous declarations has been mixed. In 2024, when WHO declared mpox outbreaks in Congo and elsewhere in Africa a global emergency, experts at the time said that it did little to get supplies like diagnostic tests, medicines and vaccines to affected countries quickly.

Health authorities said the outbreak involves the rare Bundibugyo Ebola variant, detected for only the third time in Congo and Uganda. *AP*

# Venezuela govt says it deported Maduro ally Alex Saab to US

**MIAMI**

VENEZUELA's government said Saturday it deported a close ally of Nicolas Maduro facing several criminal investigations in the US less than three years after the businessman was pardoned by former US President Joe Biden as part of a prisoner swap.

The decision marks a stark reversal for Alex Saab, who Maduro fought tooth and nail to bring home after his previous international arrest in 2020. Now, the Colombian-born insider, long described by US officials as Maduro's "bag man," may be asked to testify against his former protector, who is awaiting trial on drug charges in Manhattan after being captured in a shock raid by the US military in January.

The Venezuelan immigration authority in a short statement Saturday did not explicitly say where it had sent Saab but said the decision was made based on several ongoing criminal investigations in the US The statement's reference to Saab only as a "Colombian citizen" appeared to be a nod to Venezuelan law, which prohibits the extradition of its nationals. Following his arrest, Venezuela submitted what it said was Saab's diplomatic passport to a US court, with acting President Delcy Rodríguez calling him an "innocent Venezuelan diplomat" illegally "kidnapped" during a mission to Iran to bypass US sanctions. *AP*

Alex Saab | AP

MOUNTAIN CALLING

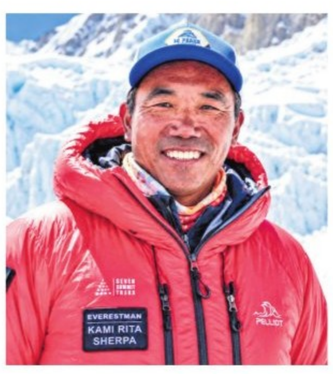
# *Everest's record-breaking Sherpas script history on the peak again*

**KATHMANDU**

NEPAL's mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa made history on Sunday by breaking his own world record for the maximum number of ascents of Mt Everest as he scaled the world's highest peak for the 32nd time.

The 56-year-old veteran climber, popularly known as 'Everest Man', reached the 8,848.86-metre peak at 10.12 am, according to the Department of Tourism. He was leading an expedition operated by 14 Peaks Expedition, it said.

The successful ascent was confirmed by the department's field office stationed at Everest Base Camp, reported The Kathmandu Post. Born in Thame village of Solukhumbu district in Koshi Province in January 1970, Kami Rita started his career as a professional mountaineer in 1992 and climbed Mt Everest for the first time in 1994.



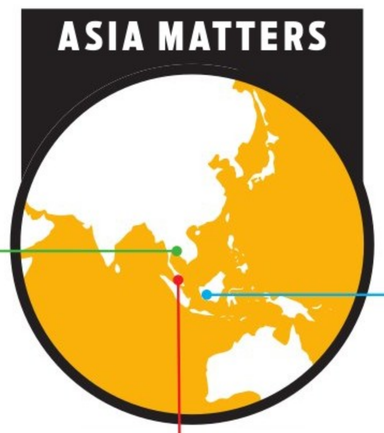
Nepal's mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa and Lhakpa Sherpa | PTI/X

The Department of Tourism congratulated Sherpa, saying his achievement reflects a significant contribution to Nepal's mountaineering sector and its international profile.

Kami Rita had climbed Sagarmatha, as the peak is known in Nepali, twice each in 2023 and 2024. He scaled it for the 31st time on May 27, 2025, Between 1994 and 2025, Kami Rita also scaled K2 and Mt Lhotse once, Manaslu thrice, and Cho Oyu eight times, all above 8,000 metres.

In a related development, Lhakpa Sherpa, also known as the 'Mountain Queen' and the first Nepali woman to summit Mt Everest, broke her own world record by completing her 11th successful ascent of the peak on Sunday. She reached the peak at 9.30 am, the Department of Tourism said. *PTI*

**ASIA MATTERS**




**THAILAND**

**FARMING PAUSED AFTER BORDER ROW**

Rangers halted farming activity in a disputed border area after villagers were found ploughing land that authorities said crossed into sovereign territory. Soldiers from both sides later negotiated using GPS coordinates and agreed to suspend all activity until the boundary issue is resolved. The incident occurred near Ang Sila village after local residents alerted security forces about tractors entering the contested zone. Authorities said the land breached a bilateral agreement governing disputed areas. Border officials will now conduct a survey as part of the demarcation process and continue monitoring the sensitive frontier region closely.

**MALAYSIA**

**ANWAR WARNS OF EARLY ELECTIONS**

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim warned coalition partners he could call an early general election if political pressure and intimidation continue. Speaking at a coalition convention, Anwar said his alliance was ready to contest seats in several states after allies signalled plans to challenge ruling partners in upcoming elections. He, however, said there was still room for negotiations before final political decisions were made, while stressing the need for stability within the ruling coalition.

**INDONESIA**

**ENGLISH TO BE MUST FOR SCHOOLKIDS**

English will become a compulsory subject in elementary schools from 2027 under a new government plan aimed at improving education quality and preparing students for global competition. Education Minister Abdul Mu'ti said the ministry is preparing support measures, including gradual English training for teachers nationwide. The policy forms part of wider efforts to modernise schools, improve digital learning and strengthen teachers' qualifications and competencies. Officials said early English education would help students develop stronger 21st-century skills for the future and improve their confidence and communication abilities.

**9.07%** fall India's gems and jewellery exports saw at ₹20,825.01 cr in April following the West Asia conflict, the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council said on Sunday

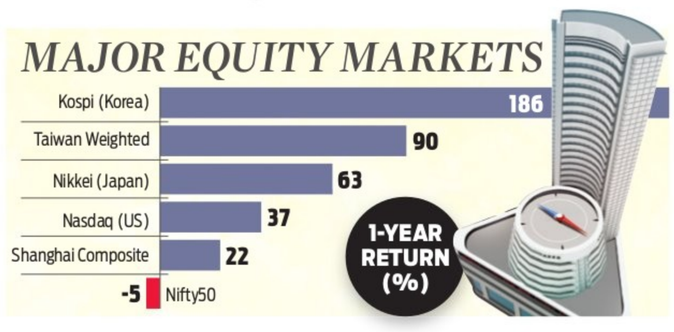
# Domestic market trails global equities

Taiwan and South Korean markets surged 100-200% in a year, while domestic benchmarks declined 10-12%

**ARSHAD KHAN** @ New Delhi

DOMESTIC equity market has continued to underperform in 2026 with several factors making domestic stocks unattractive, especially to foreign institutional investors (FIIs). While many global markets are trading flat or higher this year, domestic benchmarks the BSE Sensex and the NSE Nifty50 have fallen 10-12%. The gap widens over a one-year horizon: markets such as Taiwan and South Korea have surged by 100-200% over the same period.

India underperformed global peers in 2025 despite a 9-10% gain in the Sensex and Nifty, weighed down by global headwinds, steep US tariffs and FII selling. By comparison, major markets posted stronger returns: US' Nasdaq +26%, Japan's Nikkei +28%, China's Shanghai Composite 22%, MSCI Emerging Markets +30%, Taiwan +27%, Dow Jones +13%. Standouts were South Korea (+76%) and Spain (+48%).




While the West Asia crisis remains a primary factor dragging Indian stocks lower since early March, analysts point to the absence of a robust AI and semiconductor ecosystem as a less-discussed headwind.

"While global indices are riding a AI-tech and dollar-softening wave, the Indian market has been held back by foreign-outflows, elevated crude-price and geopolitical risks, and a slower earnings-growth. This has allowed global peers to hit fresh highs even as the domestic index operates in a tighter, more volatile band," said Vinit Bolinjkar, research head, Ventura.

He added, "Given sharp correction and compressed valuations, the market is technically ripe for a short- to medium-term bounce, especially if macro headwinds ease and FIIs stabilise their flows. However, a durable rally will depend on resolution of geopolitical risks, crude-price stability, and clearer earnings visibility, rather than just sentiment."

Sunny Agrawal, head of fundamental research at SBI Securities, stated that India's market weakness as against global equities is due to a mix of lack of new age play (AI, Semiconductor, Memory etc), moderate earnings growth for benchmark indices, valuations, unfavourable taxation and sector composition in the benchmark.

He added that markets like the US, Taiwan and Korea are benefiting from the global AI and semiconductor boom, while India doesn't yet have large AI, chip or global technology companies that can attract similar flows. The majority of the money flow is getting diverted towards the likes of Nvidia, SK Hynix, Samsung etc which are reporting extraordinary earnings growth of 50-100% and have a large profit pool, leading to massive outperformance.

Agrawal said India's tax and regulatory environment has become relatively less favourable for foreign investors. "Higher capital gains taxes, tighter derivative rules and higher transaction costs have reduced trading activity and near-term attractiveness," he added.

Short-term capital gains on listed equities rose to 20%, while long-term gains above ₹1.25 lakh are taxed at 12.5%. Further, SEBI hiked minimum lot sizes from Rs 5 lakh to ₹15-20 lakh, limited weekly options to one per exchange and raised margins for short options by 2% starting November 2024.

IN CONVERSATION

**SWARUP MOHANTY**
*Chief executive officer, Mirae Asset Mutual Fund*

## 'Large-cap funds should continue to form the core of most portfolios'

AS equity market volatility peaks amid rising geopolitical uncertainty and weakening macroeconomic indicators, retail mutual fund investors are once again confronting familiar questions around risk, returns and long-term wealth creation. **Dipak Mondal** spoke with **Swarup Mohanty**, chief executive officer of Mirae Asset Mutual Fund, on market conditions, investor behaviour, AI, gold and the evolving structure of India's capital markets. Edited **excerpts:**

**Given the recent volatility, does investing in large caps make more sense now?**

Investing in large caps always makes sense. In overheated markets, some investors may prefer passive strategies or simply buying the Nifty 50, but nobody disputes the importance of owning quality large-cap businesses.

After the recent correction, several strong companies are available at attractive valuations. Large caps should continue to form the core of most portfolios.

India is entering a very interesting phase. Earlier, India became a $4 trillion economy while per capita income was still relatively low. Now the real story will unfold as per capita income rises from roughly $2,000 toward $3,000 and beyond. That transition changes consumption patterns, travel, spending behaviour and the broader economy. The beneficiaries of that growth will likely include several large, dominant companies.

**Some fund managers have suggested investors should slow SIPs into small-cap funds. Do you agree?**

No, we are not from that camp. Over the last few years, many new-age businesses have listed in the small-cap space, including companies in energy, asset management, hospitals, capital markets and consumer sectors.

Earlier, concerns around corporate governance were more common among smaller companies. But today, a generational shift is taking place. Many businesses that were once run conservatively by founders are now being managed by second-generation entrepreneurs who understand the value of public markets and corporate branding. As a result, several quality businesses are entering the listed universe.

**After the recent correction, several strong companies are available at attractive valuations. India is entering a very interesting phase. Earlier, India became a $4 trillion economy while per capita income was still relatively low. The real story will unfold as per capita income rises**

If 250-300 companies are listing every year, investors only need to identify 10–20 good businesses over time to create wealth.

That said, investors should still follow asset allocation principles and understand their own risk profile. But many people discover their true risk appetite only after market corrections.

**There is a perception that mutual funds don't generate good returns and that wealth is being transferred from the middle class to the rich through expensive IPOs and private equity exits. What's your take?**

At the top level, it is a fact that when foreign institutional investors (FIIs) sell and Indian investors buy, there is a shift in ownership taking place in the market. Both are important. I do not belong to the camp that believes India can do it alone. Institutional ownership helps strengthen corporate governance because global investors typically invest only when companies meet certain standards of conduct and disclosure.

At the same time, Indian ownership of Indian markets is increasing, and that is a positive structural shift. Over time, investors realise that markets move through cycles and that wealth creation comes from staying invested through those phases.

**What is the response to global investing themes and overseas diversification?**

Unfortunately, mutual funds currently face regulatory limits on overseas investing. The industry-level cap imposed by the RBI has already been exhausted, so access is very limited.

MONEY-WISE

## EQUITY INVESTING & RISK TAKING ABILITY

FINANCIAL ADVICE

**ASHOK KUMAR**
*Head of LKW-India.*
*He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com*
*(Views expressed here are personal)*

NOT every investor has the ability to take Risk and even among those who can, the appetite is often limited.

Volatility during 2026 was anticipated by many of us at and geo-political risks hung like a sword over equity markets worldwide. But, while a flare-up in any of the geo-political hotspots including Israel and Iran was not unexpected, what has surprised many market participants is that Iran has been able to hold out and frustrate the US-Israel alliance thus far in the war, especially by using the Strait of Hormuz strategically.

The resultant decline in Indian equity market indices seems largely triggered by the Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) exiting anticipating a slowdown in growth in India owing to its being a very big oil importer. The FII selling has been a double whammy as it has also beaten down the Indian currency versus the US dollar. Clearly the FIIs have exited expecting the market to cool off and factoring in the worst-case scenarios that could play out in India.But, what happens if that scenario does not play out and the inevitable damage is lesser than anticipated? There is a flicker of hope that UAE's exit from OPEC might benefit India in terms of uninterrupted oil supplies via its Fujairah port.

One is clutching at straws perhaps but once the dust settles, will those FIIs be back and will that trigger a surge in the Indian indices? Time alone can tell, though if I were a betting man, that is where my money would be. When that will happen, is the tougher question to answer.

A few of our HNI patrons hail from semi-rural areas across India and what they lack in terms of educational 'labels', they more than makeup with their lateral thinking ability to sense a killing whenever the opportunity presents itself. A couple of them always surprise us by simply asking to invest fairly large sums via the Lump-Sum route, sans any queries on the state of and outlook for the equity market.

As a matter of abundant caution and professional compliance, our team did explain the pros and cons of making lump-sum investments and that too in a market whose direction appears unclear and uncertain in the near term. Well, their line of thinking was simple. The investments they were making were was with the time frame of a decade in hand and they were confident that the returns would be handsome. Given that kind of clarity of thought, there was little left to debate.

Call their line of thinking what you may, but one thing I have learn from being an investor for over three and a half decades is that it is the ability to ride risks and with immense patience, that separates 'few winners' from the 'many also rans' in any equity market.

MONEY MATTERS

## HOW 'YOLO' LIFESTYLE COULD BE HURTING NOW

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

**RAJAS KELKAR**
*(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)*

IT is a heavy feeling right now if you are staring at your personal finances. Your investments in equity markets are rudderless due to diverse stakeholder views. While Indian institutional investors are committed to supporting Indian listed companies due to their respective scheme mandates, foreigners are finding faster profit growth and cheap valuations in Korea, Taiwan and a few US tech companies.

To add to that, there is uncertainty due to persistently rising fuel prices, rupee depreciation, and inflation risks. All of that is set to ensure that interest rates stay where they are for now and potentially could rise if inflation surges. The latest wholesale or producer price inflation was significantly higher than the inflation we see for goods and services we consume. Typically, the gap narrows as prices settle or producers pass higher input costs on to us. The chances of you and me bearing these high costs are much higher.

A wealth manager friend in Mumbai flagged a concern in the middle of the big-picture story, which is increasingly sour. They argued that the indebtedness of Indian households will now trouble many, forcing cuts in expenditure and loan restructuring.

From pre-COVID days in 2019 to date, personal loans account for a third of banks' total outstanding non-food credit, compared with a quarter earlier. That is based on comparable RBI data as of February 2026. Growth in credit card loans, other personal loans, consumer durable loans, and loans against jewellery is much faster than that of housing loans. While total non-food credit is up 2.5 times, personal loans are up nearly 3.5 times.

That shows you piled up on loans, as "You Only Live Once" (YOLO) became the household mantra post-COVID. While owning a home remained a strong need, living a better life, eating well, and travelling like never before led people to live beyond their means. The case in point is Apple's trend in iPhone sales in India. In 2019, Apple sold 15 lakh phones. In 2025, that number jumped to 1.5 crore. It was enabled through equated monthly instalment schemes through personal loans.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

When financial conditions are tightening, as many experts warn, you need to step back and review your financial situation. Over the next few weeks or months, many of you are likely to face stress on your income as companies slash their workforce. If you are in the IT services sector, you are likely to be at the receiving end if you are not 'upending' your skills. A single IT services job, or the so-called 'white-collar' job, creates 4-5 blue-collar jobs to provide support services. The overall urban consumption was a problem even before the crisis emerged in West Asia. The latest round of job cuts could further hurt employment prospects and slow demand for goods and services.

You need to choose wisely when it comes to your spending. Make a list of items that you need and those you want. Prioritise your needs ahead of your wants. Prime Minister Narendra Modi advised citizens last week to practice austerity when purchasing gold and jewellery and when travelling abroad. You need to step back and check whether it's possible to utilise the idle gold in the bank locker for new family events rather than buying more on the market. Gold as an investment is not a great idea when prices are near a record high. Instead of piling on more loans for lifestyle spending, you may want to pay off outstanding loans. It is not a good idea to compromise your long-term savings by stopping your systematic investing. If you work with a professional financial advisor, it is a good time to discuss all these issues and rejig your finances. If you do not have any, you need to do your own research or consult an advisor.

# FMCG companies eye fresh price hikes

**PUSHPITA DEY& SANAL SUDEVAN**
@ New Delhi/Chennai

DAILY essential products such as soaps, biscuits and beverages are likely to witness upward revision in prices following the price hike in petrol and diesel by ₹3 each last Friday.

The fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) are already grappling with high crude prices as blockade in the Strait of Hormuz impacting the supply chains. With the recent announcement, the industry is likely to see a price rise of 4-5% in the next two-three months.

Rishabh Jain, director at International Business at Petros Stone LLP, said: "Consumer goods prices are likely to rise by 4-8% across several FMCG categories in the coming months, with further increases expected in household essentials, durables and logistics-linked products. Consumers may begin noticing higher prices, mainly in packaged foods, personal care products and everyday household items over the next two to three months."

Price rise in diesel would adversely impact freight movement, making daily products dearer. "Diesel drives 70% of India's freight movement, and even a moderate price hike can push transportation costs up by 5-10%," said Ravin Saluja, director, Sterling Agro Industries, which operates Nova Dairy.

The industry may adopt short-term measures to tackle inflationary pressure so that the demand sentiments are not affected. Salloni Ghodawat, CEO, Ghodawat Consumer Ltd, said overall input costs may rise by 1.5-4% in the short term depending on the category and logistics dependency. "If fuel inflation continues, there could be selective price revisions, grammage optimisation, or promotional adjustments," she said.

### Cost absorption

FMCG industry players said companies are initially trying to absorb the increase through route optimisation, freight consolidation, strategic sourcing and vendor negotiations before passing costs on to consumers.

"At this point, we are not looking at passing the increased cost on to consumers," said Sanjana Desai, executive director at Desai Foods, which owns Mother's Recipe. "FMCG products are highly price sensitive and any pricing decision has to be taken carefully." However, she added that if the increase sustains over a longer period, company may review pricing, pack sizes or other cost management measures.

# Prudential plc to acquire 75% stake in Bharti Life Insurance from Bharti Ent

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** @ New Delhi

BHARTI ENTERPRISES on Sunday announced that UK-based insurer Prudential plc has agreed to acquire a 75% stake in Bharti Life Insurance Company Ltd from Bharti Life Ventures Pvt Ltd and other selling shareholders, marking a significant consolidation move in India's fast-growing life insurance sector.

The transaction, subject to regulatory approvals and other customary conditions, will give Prudential control of Bharti Life Insurance Company, a life insurer promoted by Bharti Enterprises. Financial details of the deal were not disclosed.

Announcing the transaction, Sunil Bharti Mittal said Prudential's global insurance expertise and scale, combined with Bharti's market presence, would help accelerate Bharti Life's growth trajectory and access to protection and long-term savings products in India.

"We are delighted to welcome Prudential Plc as the controlling shareholder of Bharti Life, accelerating its growth trajectory. Prudential's experience and global scale, combined with Bharti's strong track record, create a formidable alliance to tap into the immense potential of India's life insurance sector," Mittal said.

The deal comes at a time when India's life insurance industry is witnessing rapid expansion driven by rising financial awareness, increasing digital adoption and relatively low insurance penetration levels.

Bharti Life operates through a multi-channel distribution model including proprietary distribution, bancassurance, brokers, corporate agents and group business. The company offers a range of protection and long-term savings products.

Funds managed by 360 ONE Asset hold a minority stake in Bharti Life. Commenting on the transaction, Karan Bhagat said the investment had benefited from the insurer's "market-leading growth and strong momentum".

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the General Public that my client **SRI. NAVEEN JOY PETER,** Son of Late K.P. Joy, has lost the original of Release deed dated 17.10.2017 executed by Smt. Ashwini Jose in favour of Sri. Naveen Joy Peter which is registered as document No.9892/2017-18 of Book-I in the office of Sub-Registrar, Banaswadi, Bengaluru in respect of property Flat No.007 on the Ground Floor of the apartment building known as SSVR FREESIA, measuring 1380 Sq. Feet super built up area constructed on the total land Sy.No. 48/2 and 48/3, BBMP Khatha No.3, situated at Varanasi alias Jinkethimmanahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk about some days ago in transit.

In case the same is traced by anybody they should hand over the same to the undersigned and also in case anybody is having any claim, charge or interest over the said property, they shall lodge their objections with the undersigned within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of Publication of this Notice.

**D.S. BHAT,** Advocate,
M/S BHAT ASSOCIATES, 1st Main, 5th Cross, Yeshwanthpur, BENGALURU - 560 022. **Mob : 9916994581**
BENGALURU, DATE:16.05.2026

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## GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL

E-Mail - sencrwangul@yahoo.co.in, ☎ 06764 – 236404

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR ROAD WORKS IN ODISHA**

**25001/162/2627** **Bid Identification No. Road Online AGL- 04/2025-26**

No.1638 // Dt.12.05.26//

1. Name of the work : Road works.
2. Total No. of work : 29 Nos.
3. Estimated cost : Rs. 111.02 to Rs.699.60 Lakhs (Approx.)
4. Class of Contractor : As per annexure.
5 Period of completion. : As per annexure.
6. Other details.

| Procurement Officer | Bid Identification No. | Availability of Tender on-line for bidding | | Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification | Date & Time of opening of tender | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | From | To | | Technical Bid | Financial Bid |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle,Angul | Road Online-AGL-04/2026-27 | 28.05.26 at 10.00 A.M | 17.06.26 up to 5.00 P.M | 16.06.26 upto 1.00 P.M | 18.06.26 at 10.00 P.M | Will be intimated separately |

For detailed Notice inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

**Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul.**

**OIPR- 25001/25180/1/26-27/0004**

## TELANGANA MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

2nd Floor, DM & HS Campus, Sultan Bazar, Koti, Hyderabad - 500095.
Phone No. 040 - 40032555/888, e-mail ID: tsmsidcmd@gmail.com

**TENDER NOTICE**

**No.01/TGMSIDC/EQU/2026-27** **Date: 14.05.2026**

Tenders are invited through e-Procurement Platform (online) during the FY 2026-27 under various schemes of NHM, DME, TVVP and DoPH.

A. Procurement & Supply of Medical Equipment, Furniture Items & Other items if any to Government Hospitals/ Institutions in the State of Telangana under the Rate Contract.

For complete details, please visit website https://tender.telangana.gov.in and http://www.tgmsidc.telangana.gov.in from **18.05.2026 onwards** time to time. The Managing Director, TGMSIDC reserves the right to cancel the tenders at any time without assigning any reasons.

Sd/- (14.05.2026)
DIPR R.O. No. 2522-PP/CL/Advt/2026-27, Dt: 16/05/2026 **Managing Director**

## GBA Corporations Employees House Building Co-Operative Society Ltd.(Reg)

**Rajarammohan Roy Road, Sampamgiramanagara, Bengalore-560027**

**Call: 8310164982 / 9448955596 / 9916031052**

**We are developing a premium residential layout, Apporved by BMICAPA at Kanakapura Road, it comes under GBA Limits) exclusively for GBA Corporation Officers and Employees at a reasonable price. We are pleased to inform that a few residential plots are now available for the public as well.**

**The project development work is in progress and is expected to be completed by March 2027.**

**Some GBA Corporation Officers and Employees have already paid the advance amount for the plots. If any other GBA Corporation Officers, Employees, and interested public members who require residential plots, they may contact us for further details and bookings. Buyers can also directly visit our office or contact us by phone.**

**President**
**GBA Corporations Employees House Building Co-Operative Society Ltd.**

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## NAGPUR HOUSING AND AREA DEVELOPMENT BOARD, NAGPUR
### (REGIONAL UNIT OF MHADA)

म्हाडा MHADA

### E-Tender Notice for the Year 2026-2027

Digitally Signed & unconditional online tenders in form **B-2** Agreement are invited by the Executive Engineer, Division-I, Nagpur Housing & Area Development Board, Nagpur, Gruha Nirman Bhavan, Opp. Deshpande Hall, Civil Lines, Nagpur- 440001, Phone No. 07122565692, Email ID : exengr01@gmail.com on behalf of Chief Engineer-II / MHADA, Mumbai. It is not necessary for bidder to registered with state PWD/CPWD/MES/MHADA/CIDCO or any other Govt. agency / organization undertaking. The age of organization with experience in similar work shall not be less than 10 years. Also the eligibility criteria is as per PWD Govt. circular no. Sankirna-2017/C.R.121 (part+II)Building. 2. https://mahatenders.gov.in.

**Name of Work : CONSTRUCTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDING AFTER DEMOLITION OF EXISTING ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE BUILDING OF NAGPUR HOUSING AND AREA DEVELOPMENT BOARD, NAGPUR.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Estimate Cost | : | **Rs. 77,95,40,683/- (Excluding GST)** |
| EMD @ 0.5% | : | **Rs. 38,98,000/-** |
| Period for Completion of work | : | **36 months (including monsoon)** |
| Cost of Documents | : | **Rs. 3,540/- (including GST).** |
| Document sale Start to End | : | **18/05/2026 @ 9.00 Hrs.** To **08/06/2026 @ 17.00 Hrs.** |
| Pre bid meeting | : | **25/05/2026 @ 15.00 Hrs.** |
| Bid submission Start to End | : | **18/05/2026 @ 9.00 Hrs.** To **08/06/2026 @ 17.00 Hrs.** |
| Technical Bid Opening | : | **10/06/2026 @ 16.00 Hrs.** |
| Opening Authority | : | **Dy. Chief Engineer - Nagpur Board** |

The detail tender notice and all other details are available on portal for e–tender. Contractor is required to get enrolled on the portal https://mahatenders.gov.in and get empanelled in relevant sub portal. The registered contractor has to obtain the Digital Certificate.

* The tender document will be published online on the website **https://mahatenders.gov.in** on dt. 18/05/2026
* Tender may be cancelled at any point of time without given any reason.

**Executive Engineer - I**
**Nagpur Housing And Area Development Board, Nagpur.**

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR

(At/Po- Ambapua, Near Income Tax office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com, Tel No.:- 0680-2404287)

**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement**

**25001/159/2627** **Bid Identification No. Online Tender /04-2026-27/ BPR**

| Identification No | Name of work | No. of Works | Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh) | Class of Contractor | Period of Completion |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Online Tender / 04-2026-27/ BPR | Road Works under Mukya Mantri Sadak Yojana (MMSY) | 21 Nos | From Rs. 211.11 lakhs to Rs. 497.28 lakhs | "B" Class, or "A" Class as applicable | Period of Completion as provided as per Col. No.5 of Annexure of NIT |

| Procurement Officer | Bid Identification No | Availability of tender online for bidding | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | From | To |
| Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur | Online Tender/ 04-2026-27/BPR | 25.05.2026 at 10.00 A.M. | 08.06.2026 upto 5.30 P.M. |

(i) EMD / Bid Security, Cost of Bid document is to be transferred through Online as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN.

(ii) Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.

Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website :- **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

**Sd/- Chief Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur**

**OIPR-25001/25071/1/26-27/0007**

## GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: SUNDARGARH

AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address- serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com

No. Tender Online - RWCCESNG - 04 of 2026-27 Letter No. 2800 / Dtd. 13.05.2026

**25001/152/2627** **e-Procurement NOTICE**

1. Type of the Work: Roads (MMSY)
2. Class of Contractor: As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion: As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects: As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details:

| Procurement Officer | Bid Identification No. | Availability of Tender on-line for bidding | | Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification | Date & Time of opening of tender | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | From | To | | Technical Bid | Financial Bid |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh | RWCCESNG-04 of 2026-27 | 21.05.2026 11:00 AM | 11.06.2026 5:00 PM | 10.06.2026 5:00 PM | 12.06.2026 11:00 AM | Will be intimated separately |

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

**Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh**

**OIPR- 25001/25133/1/26-27/0006**

## KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

**No. CEE/Tr(Op)Z/HSN/SEE(O)/AEE-5/F-18-HNP/2026-27/1654-57 Date: 14.05.2026**

### TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL, invites bids against **Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/TZH/AEE-5/Gangmen-HNP/52 Dated:13.05.2026** for Providing **5 no's of Line maintenance Gangmen Service (unskilled)** required to TLM Sub-division, coming under the jurisdiction of Operations Division, KPTCL, **Holenarasipura** for a period of **twelve months through outsourcing.**

The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "tenders" on or after **18.05.2026.** Other details can be obtained from the office of undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- **Chief Engineer (Electy.), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, 3rd Floor, Prasarna Bhavana, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan.**

## Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board

**Office of the Chief Engineer, Dharwad**
**Sir M. Vishveshvarayya Road, Dharwad-580 001.**
**Ph No. : 0836-2447090, E-mail : kwbcen@gmail.com**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER** (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tender for the following work is invited (two tender document system) through e-Procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from the eligible Agency / contractors who satisfy the Technical & Financial eligibility criteria. This office Tender Notification No:158 Dated: 15-05-2026. Name of Work:- Augmentation of Water Supply System to Gadag-Betageri City under AMRUT- 2.0 Including O&M for a Period of 5 years (Including 1- year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) Mode (Lump sum Tender – No Variation). INDENT No: KUWSDB/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT510. For further information visit e-procurement portal or the Office of the Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S & D. Board, Dharwad may be contacted.

**Sd/- Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Dharwad.**

DIPR/DWD/KSMCA/186/2026-27

## SUNDARAM HOME
— Sundaram Finance Group —

**Regd Office:** No. 21, Patullos Road, Chennai - 600002.
**Corporate Office:** Sundaram Towers, No. 46, Whites Road, Chennai-600014
**Branch Office:** No. 8, Ground Floor, "Sai Prabhu"B-Street, Sirur Park, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru - 560 020.

### POSSESSION NOTICE

**Issued Under Sec 13(4) read with Appendix IV and Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002**

Whereas the authorized officer of **SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice U/s. 13(2) **dated 29-11-2025** calling upon the **Borrower Mr. Boris Tripura, Guarantor, Mr. Tousifulla Baig** to repay the amount mentioned in the Demand notice being **Rs. 56,15,521/- (Rupees Fifty Six Lakhs Fifteen Thousand Five Hundred Twenty One Only)** being the amount due and payable under the Loan Account number BNG20250036 as on **29-11-2025** along with further interest, cost and Other charges etc., if any till actual date of payment within 60 days from the date of publication of the notice on **27-12-2025.**

The Borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount as mentioned above, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) and the public in general that the Authorised Officer has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of Sarfaesi Act on this **13-05-2026.**

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrower(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the Secured property shall be subject to the charge of **SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED** for an amount **Rs. 58,97,775/- (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakhs Ninety Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Five Only)** as on **13-05-2026** along with further Interest, Cost and Other charges etc., if any till actual date of payment.

**SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY: Schedule A (Description of the Entire Property)** All that piece and parcel of the property, converted land vide Orders of conversion bearing Nos. (a) B.Dis. ALN(A)/SR/366/2004/2005 dated 28/01/2005, (b) B.Dis. ALN(A)/SR/365/2004-05 28/01/2005 and (c) B.Dis. ALN(A)/(K&A) SR.184/2005-06, bearing Survey No.6/1 measuring in all 3 Acres 19 Guntas which is conjoint together situated at Kammasandra Village, Athibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and **bounded** on the: East by: Government Halla, West by: Ananthanagar Layout, North by: Ananthanagar Layout & Remaining Portion of Survey No.6/1 belonging to Lakshmana, South by: Remaining Portion of Survey No.6/1 and 60 Feet Road. **Schedule B (Description of the Apartment)** A Two Bedrooms Flat/Apartment bearing Flat Number E-601, on the Sixth Floor of E-Block of the building known as AAKRUTI AMITY constructed in the Schedule A Property with a super built up area of 1210 Square Feet, (Which is inclusive of proportionate share in balconies, common amenities, common areas attributable thereto and limited access to terrace area i.e., from the lift room to the water tank for the purpose of repairs), with RCC Roofing, Vitrified Tile Flooring, Steel Windows etc., together with 446 Square Feet undivided share of right, title, interest and ownership in Schedule A Property and one surfaced covered car parking space in the Basement and same is **bounded** on: East by: Open Space, West by: Corridor & Flat Number E-607, North by: Staircase, South by: D-Block.

**Date: 13-05-2026** **for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD., AUTHORISED OFFICER**

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## HDFC BANK
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**Registered Office :** HDFC Bank Limited, HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400 013.

### AUCTION SALE NOTICE

The borrowers concerned and the public at large are hereby informed that a public auction of gold jewellery/ornaments pledged as security in the loan accounts listed below is proposed to be conducted. These items were pledged by borrowers who have defaulted in repaying their dues as per the terms of the executed Loan Agreements, despite reminders issued by HDFC Bank Limited ("the Bank") directing them to clear their outstanding amounts.

The Bank had earlier issued notices granting the borrowers seven (7) days' time to repay the full outstanding dues in their respective loan accounts. As the borrowers have failed to regularize their accounts, the Bank, in exercise of its rights as pledgee under the Loan Agreement and applicable law, has decided to enforce the pledge and proceed with the sale of the pledged gold jewellery/ornaments by way of public auction to recover the dues.

The auction will be conducted at the branch(es) mentioned below from 3:30 p.m. onwards. If, for any reason, the auction of any pledged security cannot be conducted or completed on the scheduled date, the Bank reserves the right to continue or reschedule the auction on any subsequent date and time without further notice.

| S. No. | Loan No. | Borrower's Name | Loan Amount (₹) | Place of Auction (Branch Address) | Date of Auction |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4000598184 | Kaushik S Reddy | 173000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., No.47, Margosa Road, Next To Bsnl Office, 15Th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore -560003 | 27-05-2026 |
| 2 | 4000670276 | Tanzeem Ahmed S | 780000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, Site No 6/B, 20Th Main, 7Th Block, Kormangala ,Bangalore, Karnataka,560095 | 27-05-2026 |
| 3 | 76077920 | Reni Robert | 131400 | | 27-05-2026 |
| 4 | 75715862 | Sadepalli Ujjaini | 71000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, The Ascent No 28, Murugeshpalya, Old Airport Road, Bangalore -560017 | 17-06-2026 |
| 5 | 75988431 | Jaylalita Mishra | 122000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 6 | 75642617 | Nagarajan Kasimani | 198000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd. No. 37/953, 24Th Main, J. P. Nagar, II Phase, Bangalore, Karnataka, Bangalore-560078 | 17-06-2026 |
| 7 | 75334073 | Nagarajan Kasimani | 49600 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 8 | 75864569 | Santhosh K C | 210000 | Hdfc Bank Limited, No - 6, Kathriguppe Main Road, 3Rd Phase, 3Rd Stage, 4Th Block, Banashankari, Bangalore - 560085 | 17-06-2026 |
| 9 | 73814962 | Michal Peirera | 40400 | HDFC Bank Ltd., Kanakshree Arcade, Ground Floor, Cts 10634, R S , No. 1356 / 1B/5, Nehru Nagar , Jnmc Road, Near Kolhapur Circle, Belagavi, Karnataka,590010 | 27-05-2026 |
| 10 | 4000064949 | Praveen Rai A | 18900 | HDFC Bank Ltd., F1, First Floor, Nos.2934E & 2935E, Magadi Chord Extension, Vijayanagar Club Road, Bangalore-560040 | 17-06-2026 |
| 11 | 4000663898 | K Nagaraja | 52500 | HDFC Bank Ltd., Bhm Enclave, No 651 Mandipet, Davangere, ., Davangere, Karnataka,577001 | 27-05-2026 |
| 12 | 75192988 | Siraj G M | 34000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 13 | 75104992 | K Kubhera | 29200 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 14 | 4000492747 | Abhishek S | 135000 | HDFC Bank Ltd, No 11 Ground Floor Global Tech Park Building O Shaughnessy Road Langford Town Bangalore-560025 | 17-06-2026 |
| 15 | 75026289 | Keshab Deb | 42000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., Sky Wards Tech Park, No.47/11, 1St Floor, Electronic City Main Road, Opposite To Velankani 4Th Gate, Bangalore-560100 | 27-05-2026 |
| 16 | 76086885 | B Srinivas | 1125700 | HDFC Bank Ltd., 102, Chawla Regency, Mosque Road, Bangalore, -560005 | 27-05-2026 |
| 17 | 75852000 | Kadam Rajendraprasad | 657000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., Machnoor Complex, Opp. Govind Rao Petrol Pump, Gandhi Chowk, Raichur-584101 | 27-05-2026 |
| 18 | 4001059002 | K Earendra | 360000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 19 | 74470451 | Menda Thatanna | 36300 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, B V V Sangha Complex, Raichur Belgaum Road, Bagalkote-587101 | 17-06-2026 |
| 20 | 4001034834 | Mahadev Patil | 116000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., #2-27, 2-27/A, Opp. City Corporation, Main Road, Gulbarga, -585105 | 27-05-2026 |
| 21 | 76056283 | Harish Konda | 269900 | Hdfc Bank Ltd., Ss Arcade, Plot No.45,Municipal No. No 8-10-349, Opp Bus Depot Gate 2, Devi Colony,Bidar -585401 | 17-06-2026 |
| 22 | 75566248 | Mohammadali Mastan Sab | 60200 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 23 | 74093173 | K Chandrasekhara Reddy | 67500 | HDFC Bank Ltd., Site No.188, 4Th Stage, Halagevadarahalli Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore,560098 | 17-06-2026 |
| 24 | 50200035 539842 | Rajalakshmi L | 998160.1 | | 27-05-2026 |
| 25 | 4000023810 | Rahul Parashar | 58400 | Hdfc Bank, No.86, , R C Square, Hmt Main Road, , Next To Bata Showroom, Mathikere, Bangalore-560054 | 17-06-2026 |
| 26 | 4000480163 | Venkatesh Kumar P | 199000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., Prabhava, Site No.42 & 44, S D Complex, Garvebhavipallya, Hosur Main Road, Bommanahally, Bangalore, 560068 | 17-06-2026 |
| 27 | 75615961 | Bhavyashree C Y | 43000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., No, 70/2, Bangalore Main Branch, Miller Road, Bangalore-560052 | 17-06-2026 |
| 28 | 75982058 | Arjun Babu R | 1225000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., 103/31, 26Th Main Road, 4Th T Block, Jayanagar, Near R V College, Bangalore-560041 | 27-05-2026 |
| 29 | 75935806 | Sabyasachi Sarata CM | 169000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, 253, 254/13, 11Th Main Road, 3Rd Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bangalore-560058 | 27-05-2026 |
| 30 | 75857282 | Sabyasachi Sarata Cm | 39500 | | 27-05-2026 |
| 31 | 75598070 | Sabyasachi Sarata Cm | 20000 | | 27-05-2026 |
| 32 | 75841254 | Kusuma S | 18800 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 33 | 4001054444 | Shankar Hudali | 366000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, Cts No. 5854, Congress Road, Tilakwadi, Belgaum -590006 | 27-05-2026 |
| 34 | 4001191464 | Santosh Baburao Desai | 161000 | | 27-05-2026 |
| 35 | 73633871 | Ashok Khanagavi | 12000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 36 | 75855908 | Sadepalli Ujjaini | 59000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, No.89, Karthik Nagar, Marathahalli, K R Puram Outer Ring Road, Bangalore -560037 | 17-06-2026 |
| 37 | 76084375 | Amit Chakraborty | 243500 | HDFC Bank Ltd., Survey No 7/1 Katha No 418/1, Near Kudalahalli Gate Bemi Layout, Brooke Fields Main Road Itpl Road, Bangalore, 560066 | 17-06-2026 |
| 38 | 75614610 | Veeresh Karamalaputti | 228000 | | 27-05-2026 |
| 39 | 4001016311 | Ameer Sab Belgaum | 209800 | HDFC Bank Ltd., Cts No.2956/57/58, Desai Chambers, Koppikar Road, Hubli-580020 | 27-05-2026 |
| 40 | 75036630 | Tamal Chatterjee | 102115 | HDFC Bank Ltd., No 195, 10Th Cross, Wilson Garden, Bangalore-560027 | 17-06-2026 |
| 41 | 4000972243 | Dhyanesh Rao P | 440000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., Vinyas Towers, No.41, 100 Feet Ring, Road, Opp. Mandovi Motors, Jp Nagar 4Th Phase, Bangalore-560078 | 27-05-2026 |
| 42 | 75955985 | R Shobha | 150000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 43 | 4000948375 | Gowramma Venkatesh | 180000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., No.10, J.C Industrial Area, Elechenahalli, Konankunte Cross, Kanakpura Road, Bangalore-560062 | 17-06-2026 |
| 44 | 4000483046 | Subhra Sankha Nag | 33000 | | 27-05-2026 |
| 45 | 4000981831 | Vivek H S | 211000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., Site No.73, Shree Lekha Complex, WOC Service Rd, Mahalakshmi Layout,560086 | 27-05-2026 |
| 46 | 75915739 | Prasannakumar K R | 29000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 47 | 74018654 | Dipmala G | 225000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., No.1563, 8Th Cross, Opp Chandra Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040 | 17-06-2026 |
| 48 | 75444326 | Abdul Khadar Khan | 208000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, Pvk Complex, Near Ambedkar Jabbal , Circle, College Road, Hospet., Hospet-583201 | 27-05-2026 |
| 49 | 4001195245 | Parvati S Mantagani | 310000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., Kruti Complex, 173 A-1 A, Nh-Pb Road, Opp - Lic Office, Haveri- 581110 | 17-06-2026 |
| 50 | 74872402 | Shankar Bannur | 303000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, Omkar Plaza, Plot No.74, Chalukya Nagar, Sholapur Road, Bijapur-586104 | 27-05-2026 |
| 51 | 4000587639 | Dilshad Agarkhed | 170000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 52 | 4000743578 | Mahammadazar Nabiwale | 13600 | | 27-05-2026 |
| 53 | 74007820 | Sameer Lalshaikh | 555000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, Sri Krishna Complex, New Lic Office Road, Challakere-577522 | 17-06-2026 |
| 54 | 73865399 | MD Asif Khan | 301000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., Bulla Complex, Old Nh 9, Besides Gada Petrol Bunk, Humnabad, Karnataka,585330 | 17-06-2026 |
| 55 | 73865399 | Mavalanabee (Nominee) | 301000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 56 | 75781774 | MD Tabrez | 250600 | | 27-05-2026 |
| 57 | 76079683 | Ravi Gundappa | 168100 | | 27-05-2026 |
| 58 | 4001200131 | Sunilkumar Eti | 104000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., Grd. & 1st Floor, Sy. No. 794A, Plot No. 3A/6, PID No.22-1-6-70, Revenkar Arcade, Station Road, Ranebennur, Dist.Haveri - 581115 | 17-06-2026 |
| 59 | 75336829 | Alimuddin Syed Patel | 48000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., Ground Floor, Malhar Complex, Survey No 282, Plot 7-8-11-12, Opp Civil Court, Yadgir, , Yadgir,585202 | 17-06-2026 |
| 60 | 75029952 | Lohit Kumar | 199999 | HDFC Bank Ltd., Plot No 35-4-134,Upper Ground Floor, B B Road,Shahpur, Yadgir. 585223 | 27-05-2026 |
| 61 | 74071379 | Kishan Shahi | 31000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, Opposite Holy Family Church, Ramamurthy Nagar Main Road, Bangalore,560016 | 17-06-2026 |
| 62 | 4000716966 | Murugan V | 410000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd. No. 487/31/1, Balaji Complex, Hennur Main Road, Opp To D Mart, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bangalore,560043 | 17-06-2026 |
| 63 | 4000985134 | Javeed Ahmed | 301000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 64 | 4000596934 | Varsha Naidu | 314000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, 48/13, 3Rd Main, 40Th Cross, 8Th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore, 560082 | 27-05-2026 |
| 65 | 73991455 | Tabassum Sarwari Si | 350000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, No 3M 409, 3Rd Main Road, Kasturi Nagar, Outer Ring Road, Bangalore-,560043 | 27-05-2026 |
| 66 | 4001125557 | Murugaiyan M | 144000 | Hdfc Bank Limited Pid No. 32/10/53, First Floor, Kolar Main Road, Bangarpet-563114 | 27-05-2026 |
| 67 | 75222931 | Vinay Kumar Yadav | 54000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., Shop No. 1, Apoorva Sai Kuteera, Apartment, Belathur Hoskote Road, Kadugodi, Whitefield, Bangalore-,560067 | 17-06-2026 |
| 68 | 4000963216 | Srenath Rau Mg | 621000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, No.200, 10Th Cross, Cbi Main Road, Ganganagar, Hebbal, Bengaluru -,560032 | 27-05-2026 |
| 69 | 74007660 | Jeshi K K | 66700 | HDFC Bank Ltd., N0-62, Ssb Towers, 1St Cross, Vignana Nagar Main Road, Kaggadaspura, Bangalore,-560075 | 17-06-2026 |
| 70 | 4000345644 | Rajakumari Gajendiran | 109000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, No. 665, Hsr Layout, Sector 1, 27Th Main, Bangalore, Karnataka,560102 | 17-06-2026 |
| 71 | 74222650 | Rojan Jose C | 42300 | HDFC Bank Ltd., No. 2 And 4 , N R Complex, Beside Amrutha Grand Restaurant, Off Sarjapur Road, Kasavanahalli, Bangalore-560034 | 27-05-2026 |
| 72 | 75843351 | Uday Pratap | 41000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 73 | 75637087 | Awang Rai | 62100 | HDFC Bank Ltd., 14-Old No. 21, Btm Layout 1St Stage, Opp Indian Oil Petrol Bunk, Bangalore,560029 | 17-06-2026 |
| 74 | 4001066630 | P Uma | 996000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., 7, Thubarahalli, Varthur Road, Whitefield P. O., Bangalore,560066 | 27-05-2026 |
| 75 | 75117749 | Sai Jushyanth Reddy | 80000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 76 | 75952812 | Rahul Malana | 79000 | | 27-05-2026 |
| 77 | 4000901187 | B V Ananthaswamy | 315000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., No. 363, Hulimavu, Bannerghatta Main Road, Near Meenakshi Mall, Bangalore, 560076 | 27-05-2026 |
| 78 | 75882855 | Devarla Vijay Kumar | 140000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 79 | 73989224 | Rahul Anand | 24000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 80 | 4000069891 | Gopi M | 206000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., No 13, 80 Feet Road, NGEF Layout, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore, 560072. | 17-06-2026 |
| 81 | 4000140291 | Gopi M | 145000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 82 | 74788545 | Radhamma Gajendra | 101000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 83 | 4000337131 | Jayalakshmi H | 60000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 84 | 75448925 | Imthiyaz H | 93500 | Hdfc Bank Ltd., #320, Bomasandra Indusrial Area, Jigani Bangalore., Jigani, 560105 | 17-06-2026 |
| 85 | 4001110742 | Deelip C D | 99900 | HDFC Bank Ltd., No.1, Gm Arcade, 1St Block, 2Nd Stage, Nagarabhavi Main Road, Outer Ring Road, Bangalore,560072 | 17-06-2026 |
| 86 | 4000897114 | Srinvasa V | 112000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd., No.186/204, Ksrtc Bus Stop Main Road, Besides Mb Road, Kolar 563101. | 17-06-2026 |
| 87 | 4001005866 | Goriparthi Bhavani | 58900 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, No 34, Mchs Layout, Jakkur Rd, Jakkuru, Bangalore,560064 | 17-06-2026 |
| 88 | 74725448 | Sandeep Vithal Jadhav | 20400 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, Kowtal Building Opp Chotulal, Sweets Ram Mandir Road Vijayapura 586101. | 17-06-2026 |
| 89 | 75656325 | Amit Kumar Shukla | 39700 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, Ground Floor, No. 452, Garuda Arcade, 3Rd Main, Beml 7Th Stage, Global Village Tech Park Back Gate, Mylasandra, Bengaluru 560059. | 17-06-2026 |
| 90 | 73733058 | Ramesh Kempanna Khadadi | 15400 | HDFC Bank Ltd., Ground Floor, Survey No 46/2E, Plot No 1, Cts No 998, Azam Nagara Circle, Bauxite Road, Azam Nagara, Belagavi,590010 | 27-05-2026 |
| 91 | 75847585 | Shabarisha G | 401000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd., Ground Floor, Pathange Arcade, Door No 133/184, Bellary Main Road, Siruguppa, Bellary, - 583121. | 27-05-2026 |
| 92 | 4001153092 | Tirupati Rathod | 189900 | Hdfc Bank Ltd., Ground Floor, Sajjan Complex, Plot No.86 & 83, Jyoti Nagar, Sindgi, Vijayapura, 586128 | 27-05-2026 |
| 93 | 75543885 | S Chandrashekha | 97000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, Ground Floor, Cts No 5/215, Opp Old Rayadurg Bus Stop, Bangalore Road, Opp Kotak Mahindra Bank, Ballary - 583101 | 27-05-2026 |
| 94 | 462722088 | Praveen Kumar E | 52600 | | 27-05-2026 |
| 95 | 4001046452 | Ravi M | 165000 | HDFC Bank Ltd., Ground Floor, Ts No. 60/7 , Door No. 7, Cantonment, Prashant Nagar, Bellary – 583103 | 17-06-2026 |
| 96 | 74894115 | Ramesh Boddiboyena | 347000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, Ground Floor, No60, D, Beside Bommasandra Industrial Association, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Bangalore, 560099 | 17-06-2026 |
| 97 | 75818954 | Kumar Naik K | 262900 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 98 | 76012011 | Enayath Pasha | 185000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 99 | 75675813 | Sampath Kumar Ks | 135000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 100 | 4000923740 | Sampath Kumar K S | 109000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 101 | 75148048 | Shekhar Shilwant | 45000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd., Ground Floor, Sindol Tower, 9-4-200/A Bomgondeshwar Circle, BVB College Road, Dist. Bidar - 585403. | 17-06-2026 |
| 102 | 75127839 | Shekhar Shilwant | 11700 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 103 | 75623375 | Sureshkrishan Govindharaj Prakash | 20250 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, Grd. Floor Srivari Tower, 78-2 Nayak Layout, J P Nagar 8Th Phase, Bk Circle, Kothnur, Bangalore,560076 | 17-06-2026 |
| 104 | 4001213129 | Pushpa N | 94000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd., Ground Floor & First Floor, Chowdeshwari Comercial Complex, Malur, 563130 | 17-06-2026 |
| 105 | 4000765376 | Manas Kumar Nayak | 328500 | HDFC Bank Ltd, Ground floor, GT Complex, Khata No.1409/952, Chandapura, Anekal Road, Bangalore,560081 | 17-06-2026 |
| 106 | 4000686889 | Dinesh G | 370000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd., Yelenahalli Village, 14/2 & 14/3, Akshay Nagar, Bangalore, 560070 | 17-06-2026 |
| 107 | 75806019 | Dinesh G | 37000 | | 17-06-2026 |
| 108 | 74235051 | Jayakumara K | 38000 | Hdfc Bank Ltd, Ground Floor, Next To Jayashree Theater, P B Road, Harihar, Davangere Dist, Harihar, 577601 | 17-06-2026 |

The auction shall be carried out strictly on an "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis. The Bank makes no warranty or representation, express or implied, regarding the quality, purity, caratage, weight, or valuation of the pledged gold jewellery/ornaments. Prospective bidders are solely responsible for inspecting and satisfying themselves regarding the condition, purity, caratage, weight, and valuation of the pledged items prior to placing their bids. Inspection will be permitted 45 minutes before the auction, entirely at the bidders' cost, risk, and discretion.

By participating in the auction, bidders shall be deemed to have independently inspected the pledged items and to accept all associated risks without any reliance on representations by the Bank. No requests for return, exchange, refund, compensation, or cancellation will be entertained after the sale has been concluded.

All bids shall be subject to a minimum reserve price determined by the Bank in accordance with applicable regulatory norms. The auction value will be based on the lower of: (a) the average closing price of gold for the preceding thirty (30) days, or (b) the closing price of gold published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association Ltd. (IBJA) on the immediately preceding day. The Bank retains sole discretion to finalise the reserve price and impose any additional conditions as deemed necessary.

Should any borrower repay the entire outstanding dues in accordance with the Loan Agreement before commencement of the auction, the pledged gold jewellery/ornaments for that account may, at the Bank's discretion, be withdrawn from the auction without further notice. The auction and any resulting sale shall remain subject to any further terms and conditions that the Bank, in its sole and absolute discretion, may impose, amend, or prescribe from time to time.

Please note that the undersigned Authorized Officer of the Bank reserves the right to postpone, adjourn, modify, suspend, or cancel the auction proceedings without prior notice and without assigning any reason. The Authorized Officer also reserves the right to accept or reject any bid(s), in whole or in part, and any such decision shall be final and binding on all participants.

**Date : 18.05.2026** **Sd/- Authorized Officer**
**Place : Bangalore** **HDFC Bank Ltd.**

## *Alonso appointed Chelsea manager on four-year deal*

Chelsea appointed Xabi Alonso as the club's manager on Sunday on a four-year deal from next season with the Spaniard the latest coach tasked with turning around the club's fortunes. The Blues lost the FA Cup final to Manchester City on Saturday and lie ninth in the Premier League with two games of the campaign to go.

# WILL CHENNAI GET TO SEE DHONI?

As Super Kings gear up for their last home game, all eyes remain on their former skipper

**GOMESH S** @Chennai

HOW is he shaping up? What is the status of his injury? How long before he returns to the playing XI? Is he travelling with the team? Who will he replace if he plays? Over the last eight weeks or so, such questions have been put forward in front of the Chennai Super Kings captain, coach, players and support staff every time they came for a press conference. And it is all about just one player — MS Dhoni.

Beneath all the different variations remains just one question. Will the fans — who have filled the stadiums across the country in yellow to get a glimpse of their favourite and one of, if not, the greatest white-ball skippers this country has had — get to see at least a glimpse of Dhoni before the season comes to a close? The answer, however, is not so simple. The 44-year-old missed the first few games due to calf strain. Then there were reports of him getting better and in line to play the game against Mumbai Indians at Wankhede on April 23. Later, head coach Stephen Fleming clarified saying that he had tweaked the calf again leading to an extended delay. "The calf is a tough one," Fleming said on April 26. "If he takes off and rips the calf again, then he will be gone (for the season). So we pushed it early. In a warm-up game, he tweaked it again, is my understanding. And since then, he has been just working hard to get some movement into it," he added.

Skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad, earlier, had indicated how watching the youngsters do well in practice games gave Dhoni confidence after his injury setback. Both the captain and coach, on multiple occasions, have said that he is progressing, knows his body best and they are waiting for the final word. The interesting bit about Dhoni is that he has not come to the ground for any of the match-days. And he has been a reluctant traveller through the season. The line both captain and coach have stuck to is that he is "tracking well" and should be available at some point. His teammates often had said that they have no idea as to when that might be apart from the fact that he is hitting the balls hard in the nets.

Truth be told, coming into the season, CSK had prepared for such a scenario. They had traded Sanju Samson for Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran knowing full well that the Kerala star would fit into the team and city. He was the supposed successor of Dhoni — both in terms of fan following and behind the stumps — and has lived up to it over the last two months. And the loyal CSK fans, at least most of them, have come to terms with the transition and even acknowledged that a playing XI with Dhoni may not necessarily be their strongest. In saying that, the craze and fandom of Dhoni remains unparalleled. Several fans travel across cities to watch a match at Chepauk in the hopes of getting a glimpse of Dhoni. Even in cities like Lucknow, fans continued to fill the stands in yellow, expecting to see their favourite star.

As Chennai take on Sunrisers Hyderabad in a must-win game at Chepauk on Monday, anticipation among fans is at its peak. They hope, once again, to see Dhoni at his home ground, potentially for one last time. It has also brought back the former captain's statement from 2021 — "Hopefully my last T20 will be in Chennai." When asked if Dhoni, who batted for around 30 minutes in the nets, would play or even come to ground — CSK usually do a lap of honour after their last home game, thanking their fans and Dhoni has always been there for it — pacer Spencer Johnson said he did not have an idea. "I'm not sure when he's playing or I've got no idea," Johnson said on Sunday.

Is it his last dance? Will Dhoni come to his 'Anbu-den' to thank his fans? Or was the Roar '26 event at the start of the season the last they got to see and celebrate their demi god?

As it is often said, only MS Dhoni might have all the answers.

MS Dhoni trains ahead of CSK's final home game | ASHWIN PRASATH

### *CSK FEEL THE HEAT*

**WITH CHENNAI FACING SRH IN THEIR LAST HOME GAME, A LOOK...**

**Travishek threat**

For Chennai Super Kings to stay alive comfortably, they have to stop Sunrisers Hyderabad. The best way to do that is dismissing Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma early.

**Eyes on Sanju**

Every time Sanju Samson has stepped up and delivered, CSK have won the game more often than not. Can he do it again?

**CSK vs SRH, Chennai, 7.30PM**

**Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar**

## CSK and SRH lock horns in high-stakes tie

**ASHOK VENUGOPAL** @Chennai

THERE will be no room for error when Chennai Super Kings take on Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL at the MA Chidambaram stadium here on Monday. With a playoff berth on sight, both CSK and SRH will battle hard. Hyderabad with 14 points with an Net Run Rate of 0.331 must win both their upcoming league games to secure a spot in the top four. . With 12 points from 12 games, CSK also need to win games to stay in the hunt for a berth in the playoffs. One of the reasons for Hyderabad's success has been the runs they managed to put in the powerplay. With Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma as openers and with Ishan Kishan at one drop, Hyderabad have the power hitters in them to get a good start.

But they faltered at the hands of Gujarat Titans' potent bowling attack of Mohammed Siraj and Kagiso Rabada.

CSK's Spencer Johnson – who returned from injury to play his first match of the season on May 15 – believes that it is important to bowl well in the powerplay against Hyderabad, saying that whoever is given the ball in the first few overs are backed to do well. "Up until the last game, we had the best bowling economy as a group, so whoever has got the ball in hand, we fully back them," Johnson said in the pre-match press conference on Sunday. "The power play is so important for any team with the ball. I feel like you don't win in the power play but you can definitely lose it, so we obviously want to start well. They (SRH's Head & Abhishek) are two world-class players. They're one of two in the world in T20 cricket, so we'll do our research on them," he said.

Johnson, on his assessment of the pitch in Chepauk, said that it could offer more bounce than in Hyderabad. "We have got our tactics that we'll bring out tomorrow. We have a lot of left-armers to swing our way, so we're excited for the challenge," he added. CSK Spinners Akeal Hosein and Noor Ahmad will also be expected to contain the explosive batters of SRH including the likes of Heinrich Klaasen.

**Full story: newindianexpress.com**

Chennai Super Kings' batter Urvil Patel (L) with Mike Hussey (C) during a training session | ASHWIN PRASATH

## If anything comes from govt, we will adhere to it: Dhumal on CTI demand

**FIROZ MIRZA/GOMESH S** @Chennai

HOURS after the Chamber of Trade and Industry requested sports minister to reschedule Indian Premier League, IPL chairperson Arun Dhumal said they will look into the issue and follow the directives if anything comes from the Government of India.

Earlier, the CTI chairman Brijesh Goyal wrote a letter to sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya demanding him to reschedule the league to cut down on flight travels and limit the matches behind closed doors at a few venues keeping in view the austerity measures announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi due to ongoing West Asia crisis. "So far, there has not been any communication to BCCI to my knowledge," Dhumal told this daily. "Independent agencies might have their views on certain (things), but we are accountable to the Government of India. If anything comes from the government, we will look into it and certainly adhere to the directions," he added.

Goyal, in his letter, said that teams would have travelled lakhs of kilometres by air and road during the IPL, which started on March 28, so far. "While every government department, politician, officer, common citizen is trying to avoid wasteful expenditure on the advice of Prime Minister Modi, in these difficult times, IPL is the only event which seems to be untouched by any crisis at the moment," read the CTI's press statement.

Goyal said a new schedule should be issued for the remaining matches of the IPL. "Cutting down on air travel, matches without spectators and at a limited venues will save millions of litres of fuel, petrol and diesel and reduce the burden on the country. Even during the pandemic, the BCCI did the same," Goyal argued. The CTI chairman, however, said the ministry has not responded to his request yet and he will also mail a letter to the BCCI in this regard. The CTI's letter claimed that chartered aircrafts such as Boeing 737 or Airbus A 320 are commonly used by IPL teams. "These aircrafts consume on an average around 2400 to 3000 litres of fuel per hour. According to this, if the flight flies for about 2 hours, then the estimated consumption is about 5000 to 6000 litres of aviation fuel (...)," said the letter.

**Full story: newindianexpress.com**

Ashutosh Sharma (L) and Axar Patel celebrate Delhi's victory | SAYANTAN GHOSH

## Porel, Rahul and Starc help DC overcome RR

**AGENCIES** @New Delhi

ABHISHEK Porel and KL Rahul hit fluent half-centuries as Delhi Capitals overhauled a competitive Rajasthan Royals total to register a five-wicket victory in their Indian Premier League clash here on Sunday.

Porel, playing only his third match of the season, scored 31-ball 51, while KL Rahul bounced back from a couple of underwhelming outings with a composed 56 off 42 deliveries as Delhi Capitals completed the chase of 194 in 19.2 overs.The opening pair stitched together a match-winning 105-run partnership that laid the foundation for DC's chase, before Axar Patel scored an unbeaten 34 off 18 deliveries to complete the chase. Earlier, Mitchell Starc starred with the ball for DC, producing a devastating spell of fast bowling to restrict Rajasthan Royals to 193 for 8.

**Brief scores:** RR 193/8 in 20 ovs (Jurel 53, Parag 51; Starc 4/40) **lost to** DC 197/5 in 19.2 ovs (Rahul 56, Porel 51, Axar 34 n.o).

**POINTS TABLE**

| Team | M | W | L | Pts | NRR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RCB(Q) | 13 | 9 | 4 | 18 | 1.06 |
| GT | 13 | 8 | 5 | 16 | 0.40 |
| SRH | 12 | 7 | 5 | 14 | 0.33 |
| PBKS | 13 | 6 | 6 | 13 | 0.22 |
| RR | 12 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 0.02 |
| CSK | 12 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 0.02 |
| DC | 13 | 6 | 7 | 12 | -0.87 |
| KKR | 12 | 5 | 6 | 11 | -0.03 |
| MI | 12 | 4 | 8 | 8 | -0.50 |
| LSG | 12 | 4 | 8 | 8 | -0.70 |

BIG STEP

## Iyer, Dar step up as RCB become 1st to enter playoffs

**ENS** @Chennai

DEFENDING champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru held their nerves to get the better of Punjab Kings by 23 runs at the HPCA Stadium on Sunday.

An unbeaten half-century from Venkatesh Iyer (73), supported by Virat Kohli (58) and Devdutt Padikkal (45), got RCB to 222/4. In response, Punjab were restricted to 199/8, with middle-order batter Shashank Singh's 56 going in vain.

In the chase of 223, the hosts were jolted early. On the third ball of the innings, Priyansh Arya was removed by Bhuvneshwar Kumar. With the asking rate at 11 runs per over, the PBKS batters looked to get some boundaries on the board but miserably failed.

While both Bhuvneshwar and Josh Hazlewood have been their key bowlers, Impact Sub Rasikh Dar stole the show with three wickets including that of both Shashank and skipper Shreyas Iyer.

Earlier, Punjab failed to contain the RCB batters despite removing Jacob Bethell early. RCB recovered strongly with Kohli and Padikkal keeping up a healthy run-rate. Then came the barrage from Venkatesh. Coming on at 101/2, he batted aggressively through the middle-overs, taking on both pace and spin. Despite Punjab's efforts to marginally slow RCB's run-rate, the visitors remained in control and got to 222/4.

**6**
**PBKS have lost six games on the trot**

For a side that won six on the trot, losing the next six games is a big hit on their confidence. With one more league game remaining, a finish in the top-two is impossible. With Rajasthan Royals (12 pts) and Chennai Super Kings (12 pts) only behind Punjab by a point, Shreyas and Co have to turn up and hope other results go their way. Their next game is against an already-eliminated Lucknow Super Giants side on Saturday

**Brief scores:** Royal Challengers Bengaluru 222/4 in 20 ovs (Venkatesh Iyer 73 n.o, Virat Kohli 58; Harpreet Brar 2/35) **bt** Punjab Kings 199/8 in 20 ovs (Shashank Singh 56; Rasikh Salam 3/36, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 2/38).

EXPRESS READ

### Sinner wins Italian Open, extends streak

ROME: Jannik Sinner won the Italian Open on Sunday after beating Casper Ruud 6-4, 6-4 to claim a record-extending sixth consecutive Masters 1000 tournament victory. Elina Svitolina won the women's singles title late on Saturday after beating Coco Gauff 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-2 to claim her third Rome title. Svitolina had not claimed a WTA 1000 title since her last victory at the Foro Italico eight years ago.

### Super Chess Classic: Pragg stays in joint lead

BUCHAREST: Indian GM R Praggnanandhaa played out a draw with Vincent Keymer of Germany to stay in joint lead after Round 3 of the Super Chess Classic. After a victory over Javokhir Sindarov in the previous round, Praggnanandhaa took his tally to two points. He now shares the lead with Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France, Dutch duo of Jorden Van Foreest and Anish Giri along with Keymer.

### India weightlifters finish 11th in Asian C'ships

GANDHINAGAR: India finished 11th in the medal table with 11 medals while the women's team ended third in the rankings in the Asian Senior Weightlifting Championships which concluded here on Sunday. India won one silver and 10 bronze to be placed 11th in the medal tally, with China perched at the top with 21 gold, 12 silver and 8 bronze. North Korea finished second with 30 medals.

## ISL title fight on final day post Kolkata derby stalemate

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

MOHUN Bagan Super Giant and East Bengal FC (EBFC) played out a thrilling 1-1 draw in front of a packed Salt Lake Stadium in the Indian Super League on Sunday. This Kolkata derby was not just for bragging rights, but a potential ISL title decider.

A tightly-contested game, the match saw goals in the last 10 minutes after 90 minutes. In addition to the red card, Bagan were denied the lead thanks to a crucial save from EBFC goalkeeper Prabhsukhan Gill. As the final whistle was blown, the players dropped to the ground, showing how intense this game was. With this draw, the title will be decided on the final day of the season, on Thursday, May 21. EBFC will take on Inter Kashi and Bagan will face SC Delhi. EBFC and Bagan are tied on 23 points, but the Red and Gold Brigade have a superior goal difference. Punjab FC and Mumbai City FC are tied on 22 points and have a game to play. Bengaluru FC are on 23 points but their season ended after their 2-1 win against Chennaiyin FC.

## Fernandes record as Man United win

**AGENCIES** @Manchester

BRUNO Fernandes equalled the Premier League record of 20 assists in a season as Manchester United secured third place with a 3-2 win over Nottingham Forest.

Fernandes, who was recently crowned the football writers' player of the season, moved alongside Thierry Henry and Kevin De Bruyne when his cross was turned in by Bryan Mbeumo for United's third goal. Mbeumo was also involved for the game's most controversial moment when his handball in the build up to Matheus Cunha's strike went unpunished despite a VAR review. "I want collective awards more than anything," said Fernandes. "But knowing that your job is being recognised by many people, a lot of players came out and said I was player of the season, for that I am very grateful.

"I got to 20 today. We have one more game. The manager decides who will play the next game. I will be very happy to do it. But if I don't, I am already happy because it is the most assists I have got in the Premier League."

Man United's Bruno Fernandes celebrates with his family | AFP

Another victory added to United's impressive run since Michael Carrick took charge in January. The former midfielder is expected to sign a two-year deal to remain in charge at Old Trafford in the coming days.

"We've had some big, big moments, big goals and big results in this place over the last few months," said Carrick in an end-of-season address to the United fans. "Hopefully there'll be a few more of them."

Both sides had secured their principal targets in recent weeks with United set to return to the Champions League, while Forest only guaranteed survival last weekend.

**Results:** Man United **3 -2** Nottingham Forest; Brentford **2-2** Palace; Everton **1-3** Sunderland; Leeds **1-0** Brighton; Wolves **1-1** Fulham; Newcastle **3-1** West Ham.

BADMINTON

## *Satwik and Chirag miss out on top prize at Thailand Open*

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

IT was a case of so near, yet so far for Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty as their hunt for the title continued. The Indian duo, who has had a good outing in recent weeks, was just a step away from ending their two-year title drought. However, they just missed out as they lost against Indonesian combination of Leo Rolly Carnando and Daniel Marthin in the men's doubles final of the Thailand Open — a BWF Super 500 tournament — at Bangkok.

This was the very venue where they had last won a title on BWF Tour in the year 2024.

Heading into the match, the Indians had a 4-0 head-to-head record over the Indonesians.

Chirag Shetty (2nd R) & Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (R) after the final | BADMINTON PHOTO

However, the Indonesians, who had reunited for the first time since 2024, put up an impressive show to deny the Indians. Marthin had suffered an injury last year and was making a comeback in this tournament.

The Indonesian duo made a fast start to control the proceedings in the opening game. However, the second game was much closer. It was neck-and-neck until the closing stages but the Marthin and Caranado did just about enough to clinch the game and the match in the process. The Indians offered stiff resistance, saving four match points, but that was not enough as they eventually lost 12-21, 23-35 in 53 minutes.

Despite the setback, Satwik was pleased with their overall performance this week.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
BENGALURU, MONDAY
18.05.2026
EDUCATION EXPRESS
edex YOUR LIFE COACH



UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

| CUET-UG | BITSAT SESSION 1 | UPSC CSE PRELIMS |
|---|---|---|
| Date: May 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 25, 2026 | Date: May 22, 23, 24, 25, 2026 | Date: May 24, 2026 |

IISER APTITUDE TEST

# Start your journey of SCIENCE

YECHURI SASHIKANTH

exam cell

WITH an aim to integrate and promote interdisciplinary science education and research, the government of India established the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) at Berhampur, Bhopal, Kolkata, Mohali, Pune, Thiruvananthapuram, and Tirupati. The IISERs have contributed significantly to scientific research through publications, patents, and academic work. At the same time, more students are exploring careers in scientific research and pure sciences.

The IISER Aptitude Test (IAT) is conducted annually for admission to various degree programmes at IISERs. To appear for the examination, candidates must have passed Class XII or an equivalent examination with at least three subjects from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics.

### Pattern and strategy

The IAT is a computer-based examination consisting of 60 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs), with 15 questions each from Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics. The duration of the examination is 180 minutes. Four marks are awarded for every correct answer, while one mark is deducted for every incorrect answer. No marks are awarded for unanswered questions.

Candidates with conceptual clarity and balanced preparation across all four subjects are likely to perform better in the examination. It should be noted that the IAT broadly follows the rationalised NCERT syllabus, making strong command over NCERT textbooks important during the final phase of preparation.

**At a glance**

**Exam Date**: June 7, 2026, Sunday

**Timing:** 9 AM to 12 Noon (IST)

**Where IAT can take you**

- 5-year BS-MS: **All IISERs**
- BS-MS in Computational and Data Sciences: **IISER Kolkata**
- BS-MS with Geology / Environmental Sciences: **IISER Mohali**
- 4-year BS in Economic Sciences: **IISER Bhopal**
- 4-year BTech in Data Science & Engineering: **IISER Bhopal**
- 4-year BS programme: **IIT Madras**
- 4-year BS (Research) programme: **IISc Bengaluru**

ARYA VIDYA

Young professionals say portfolio careers offer greater flexibility, creative freedom, and financial resilience in an uncertain job market

role call

# A DIVE INTO GEN Z'S SIDE-HUSTLE PERIOD

THE younger generation entering the workforce today wants to pursue the experiences, passions, and ambitions they dream of, while also recognising that financial stability plays a major role in turning those dreams into reality. However, the pay scale offered to freshers in India is often far below their growing needs and aspirations. To cope with the gap between salaries, lifestyle expectations, and personal dreams, many young people in India are turning towards 'portfolio careers'.

A portfolio career is a flexible working model in which an individual manages multiple income streams simultaneously, such as freelancing, consulting, part-time jobs, creative projects, or entrepreneurial ventures, instead of depending on a single full-time employer.

Aflah Al Zaman, Chief Marketing Officer of Desgro Media International, balances multiple creative roles, including freelance anchoring, social media strategy, and theatre workshops. "In the creative industry, it's difficult to earn enough through just one job," says Aflah, adding that theatre is something he continues purely out of passion.

Similarly, Maria, a digital marketing trainer who also runs a small food stall in Kochi, says her side venture gives her more freedom. "Even though we haven't started earning huge numbers yet, it has helped me manage expenses more efficiently and given me more freedom of choice," she says.

### Building across careers and fields at the same time

Young professionals managing multiple careers often say the experience has helped them become more adaptable and confident. Twenty-six-year-old entrepreneur Jiju Mathai Chacko says that after studying aviation, he explored web development, digital marketing, and creative writing before eventually starting his own food processing company, Zeed Fresh. "I was never interested in limiting myself to just one field. I always wanted to explore everything that genuinely interested me," says Jiju.

Sneha, a Kerala-based PR professional and lifestyle content creator, believes handling multiple responsibilities helped her grow professionally at a young age. "Every role teaches me something different. Content creation helped me build confidence and a personal brand, while PR gave me professional exposure and stability," she says. For many in Gen Z, creative freedom matters as much as career growth, with digital platforms making it easier to monetise hobbies.

### The challenges behind the lifestyle

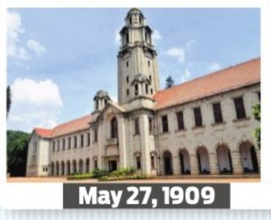
Despite the glamour often associated with freelancing and digital careers, portfolio careers come with significant challenges. Managing multiple responsibilities can become mentally and physically exhausting, especially when work starts affecting personal relationships and health. "The biggest challenge is balancing work with personal time and relationships," says Jiju, who has been managing multiple responsibilities since the age of 16. Aflah also admits that maintaining work-life balance remains difficult. "I don't get enough family time or relationship time, and I rarely get to hang out with friends because work keeps taking priority," he says.

Time management, burnout, and the pressure to constantly stay active online are common concerns among young professionals. Maria says people often struggle to understand unconventional careers because they go against social norms. Sneha echoes a similar view, saying many people fail to realise the amount of discipline and consistency required to sustain such lifestyles. Nevertheless, this model may gradually become less of an exception and more of a new normal for the next generation.

**Play it Safe**

1. **Track money** from the start. Save invoices, payment screenshots, expense records, and basic client communication. When earnings grow, check tax rules early instead of fixing the mess later.
2. **Protect your calendar** with the same seriousness as your income. Take only the work you can deliver well. Missed deadlines, poor quality, and constant availability can damage credibility faster than slow growth.
3. **Avoid projects linked** to your employer's competitors, vendors, clients, or internal data. Even small assignments can raise questions if they overlap with your official responsibilities. Never use office hours, workplace contacts, proprietary material, or employer-funded software for personal earnings.
4. **Read your employment contract** before taking on outside work. Look for clauses on paid assignments, client ownership, confidentiality, conflict of interest, and use of company equipment. Keep separate email IDs, devices, files, invoices, and payment records wherever possible.
5. **Set a stop line.** If sleep, health, study, relationships, or main-job performance begin to suffer, the extra income may be costing more than it pays. Review your schedule regularly and step away from projects that leave you constantly exhausted or unable to recover properly.

# THIS WEEK CHANGED EVERYTHING



**May 27, 1909**

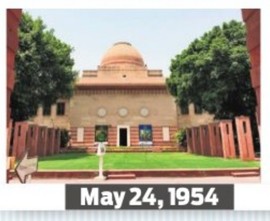
**A foundation for Indian scientific research**

117 years ago, the Indian Institute of Science came into legal existence in Bangalore through a government vesting order, with support from Jamsetji Tata and the Mysore State. Today it supports postgraduate scientific research, deep-tech innovation, public-private research infrastructure, and science-led industry building.

**May 25, 1936**

**Pramanavarttika manuscript recovered**

90 years ago,Rahul Sankrityayan discovered the lost Sanskrit manuscript of Dharmakirti's Pramanavarttika during research in Tibet. The text remains important to Buddhist logic, epistemology, and Indian philosophical traditions, while continuing to influence Indology and manuscript-based research.



**May 24, 1954**

**National Gallery of Modern Art established**

72 years ago,the NGMA was set up in New Delhi to acquire, preserve, and exhibit modern and contemporary Indian art from the 1850s onward. Its legacy continues through art history, museum studies, curation, conservation, cultural archiving, restoration work, and heritage management careers across India today.

**May 22, 1963**

**Inaugural flight of the Rohini glider**

63 years ago, the RG-1 Rohini, developed by India's Civil Aviation Department, completed its first flight. It showed that Indian engineers could move from aeronautical theory to indigenous hardware design and flight testing, supporting aerospace engineering, aviation R&D, and domestic hardware development.

**May 23, 1986**

**Environment Protection Act enacted**

40 years ago, after the Bhopal disaster, India passed the Environment (Protection) Act, giving the central government powers to set ecological standards, regulate hazardous substances, and monitor industrial compliance. It continues to influence environmental science and law even today.

HERE WE GO AGAIN

# How you can thrive if WFH makes a comeback

KARTHIKEYA S

ONGOING fuel concerns due to geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have triggered austerity measures across the world, including work-from-home and hybrid work arrangements, and daily vehicular restrictions.

While India has yet to adopt remote work and online classes en masse, Prime Minister Narendra Modi strongly urged the nation to consider returning to these modes, a la the COVID-19 era. State governments, including Delhi, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal, followed suit with varying measures. Delhi, however, has been among the most enthusiastic, introducing a two-day work-from-home policy for government workers and announcing online "non-practical classes" for schools and colleges. Compared to 2020, the push is still softer. However, students and professionals are already wondering how they can remain productive if such systems return.

According to experts, what makes or breaks productivity is discipline. During the COVID-19 lockdowns, the absence of daily commute disrupted routines for many professionals, affecting consistency and leading to a decline in their efficiency. If work-from-home is mandated again, professionals would do better to stick to their routines as much as possible, says Sumir Nagar, author and performance coach for young professionals. According to him, a lack of discipline could also affect communication and accountability. "Young working professionals must realise that a dip in employee productivity results in a dip in their companies' profit margins, which will impact their own salaries and appraisals," he says.

This break in routine was also detrimental to students' performance during the previous lockdowns. "Students used to attend their online classes straight out of bed, as most schools could not force them to switch their cameras on," says Vivek Thakur, founder of Scholar's Den, a Delhi-based coaching institute for the JEE. If online classes are reintroduced, he advises students to set clear goals for themselves, especially to keep their attention spans intact. He also advises parents to monitor their children during their classes and ensure that they're paying attention.

Both Sumir and Vivek note that being unable to interact with friends and peers made people feel isolated during the pandemic, affecting their motivation and discipline. Sumir believes that any work-from-home directives introduced today are unlikely to be as restrictive, and suggests that professionals step out and meet friends when possible, while also avoiding overwork and maintaining boundaries with managers. "Boundaries are non-negotiable," he says. As for students, Vivek advises reducing screentime outside classes and spending more time on physical activities, reading, and family interactions to maintain mental balance.

lock in

**As India weighs remote work measures during ongoing fuel shortages, professionals and educators share lessons learnt from the COVID-19 era**

NO RECESS

# TEACHERS DRAINED BY THE RINGING BELL

**Educators say healthier workplace culture, peer support, and emotional safety are crucial, as growing expectations add to burnout**

SOHAM MITRA

FROM burnout and administrative overload to the hidden burden of emotionally supporting distressed students, teachers are navigating pressures that extend far beyond academics. Bijo Mathew, a trained graduate Science teacher from New Delhi, says, "Mental health is one of the most neglected health issues in modern society. Earlier it was lack of awareness; now awareness itself is ignored." According to him, teachers today are expected to perform multiple responsibilities, including assembly duties, administrative tasks, and extensive coordination work, alongside traditional teaching roles. "Teachers end up carrying school duties back home," he notes, adding that burnout often manifests through irritability, anger and emotional fatigue.

Mathew recalls instances where parents contacted teachers late at night to discuss issues involving their children. He says the expectation that educators remain constantly available to students and parents can become draining.

However, Mathew believes introducing a separate category of mental health leave may inadvertently stigmatise educators. Instead, he advocates reducing workload and implementing existing provisions under the National Education Policy. He also suggests informal wellbeing initiatives such as monthly outings that allow teachers to build support networks and discuss their struggles openly.

Echoing similar concerns, Ghayathri Swetha Kumari R A, a psychologist and academician from Chennai, says educators are often expected to remain resilient. "Teachers are also human beings who may experience emotional breakdowns, burnout and psychological exhaustion," she says.

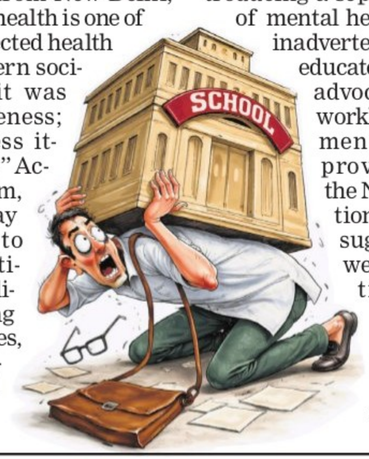
Over time, Kumari says, constant strain may lead to chronic fatigue, reduced motivation, emotional volatility, and heightened sensitivity to criticism. She adds that balancing teaching with accreditation work, mentoring, admissions, and examinations can become overwhelming in the absence of institutional support systems.

Kumari believes workplace culture reform is more crucial, not leave provisions alone. "Long-term wellbeing is supported when institutions promote emotional safety, mutual respect, and balanced expectations," she says.

Both Mathew and Kumari argue that institutional culture often normalises overwork by treating it as professionalism. An environment where teachers are expected to remain constantly available alongside non-academic responsibilities can discourage many from seeking breaks or support due to fears of professional stigma or being perceived as less resilient.

Over time, their exhaustion becomes normalised and remains under-addressed. Institutions must move beyond symbolic discussions on wellness. Confidential counselling, Employee Assistance Programmes (EAPs), peer-support systems, debriefing sessions and psychologically safe workspaces may prove critical in addressing educator burnout.

stress test




**ARE YOU BURNT-OUT?**

Feeling tired is normal. Feeling constantly drained or overwhelmed may point to something more serious. Burnout often builds gradually through changes in energy, patience, focus, and emotional response. Try this quick self-check.

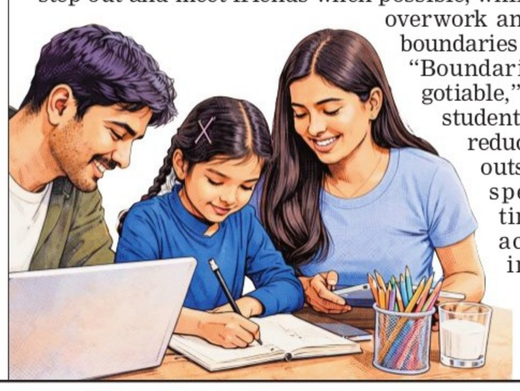
**SCORE EACH LINE**

0 = Rarely | 1 = Sometimes | 2 = Often

| Area | Ask yourself | Score |
|---|---|---|
| Energy | Do I feel tired even after rest? | 0 / 1 / 2 |
| Patience | Do small issues irritate me more? | 0 / 1 / 2 |
| Focus | Do routine tasks feel harder now? | 0 / 1 / 2 |
| Motivation | Do I feel detached from my work? | 0 / 1 / 2 |
| Availability | Do after-hours messages leave me drained? | 0 / 1 / 2 |
| | Do I lose patience with people faster? | 0 / 1 / 2 |
| Confidence | Does criticism affect me more deeply? | 0 / 1 / 2 |
| Home life | Do I struggle to switch off after work? | 0 / 1 / 2 |

| TOTAL SCORE | READING |
|---|---|
| 0-4 | Manageable stress |
| 5-8 | Early strain |
| 9-12 | Burnout risk |
| 13-16 | Support may be needed |

**Note!** This is only an indicative check. Persistent distress should be discussed with a qualified mental-health professional.



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**DAY'S DIARY**

## *Flying off charts!*

On this day in 2018, BTS made history as their third album, *Love Yourself: Tear* topped the Billboard 200 chart

**RECORD BREAKING ALBUM**

The group released the album and a music video for the single *Fake Love*. It sold 1.44 million pre-order copies in the first six days in South Korea

**ON TOP OF THE MARKET**

The album, along with Billboard 200, was also charted on the World Albums, the first primarily non-English-language album to do so in more than 12 years

**BACKGROUND**

BTS, originally the Bangtan Sonyeondan, was formed in 2010, consists of Jin, Suga, J-Hope, RM, Jimin, V, and Jung Kook

## *What's happening in Bengaluru?*

PG 2

Eyes on representing India next, Bengaluru FC's 21-year-old midfielder Soham Varshneya, who recently broke into the club's first team, speaks about coach Pep Munoz's influence on his game & adapting to the club's possession-based football culture

# LEVEL UP

Soham Varshneya celebrates with Ryan Williams after scoring a goal against East Bengal | BFC

**SAPTARSHI C**

FROM being just another voice in the roaring West Block at the Kanteerava Stadium last year to now stepping onto the pitch wearing the Bengaluru FC badge, **Soham Varshneya**'s journey feels straight out of a dream. Today, those same stands rise to watch him play.

For Varshneya, however, this moment was far more than luck and destiny. After making most of his earlier appearances from the bench, the Bengalurean finally earned his first start against Chennaiyin FC in Bengaluru FC's final game of the season last Saturday, and embraced the opportunity quite confidently. From a curling left-footed effort into the side netting to another strike that flew narrowly over the bar, played with growing freedom and maturity. His inward runs, composure in possession and ability to link midfield with attack reflected both Pep's influence and BFC's possession-based playing style.

The 21-year-old, who continues to rise steadily through the ranks at the Blues, says a major influence in his current phase has been the arrival of head coach Pep Munoz. "Pep gave me the confidence and the game time to express myself. His trust means a lot because he believed in my abilities and allowed me to play on the right wing – a position I'm really enjoying," he says.

The midfielder adds that Munoz constantly pushes players through intense drills and tactical sessions to sharpen both physical and technical abilities. Varshneya particularly highlights the coach's emphasis on possession-based football, a philosophy deeply associated with Spanish football. In simple terms, this style allows teams to dictate the tempo while forcing opponents to spend long periods chasing the ball.

Having spent time training in Madrid earlier in his career, Varshneya immediately connected with Munoz's methods. "He keeps reminding me to think even before receiving the ball, about positioning, awareness and the next move," he explains.

Breaking into a powerhouse club can be daunting for any rising talent, but Varshneya credits BFC's unique ecosystem for his smooth integration. "Sharing space with icons like Sunil Chhetri, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Rahul Bheke and Ashique Kuruniyan gives younger players daily exposure to professionalism and leadership. At the same time, the presence of Roshan Singh Naorem and Lalremtluanga Fanai creates a sense of comfort and camaraderie among us. That culture has always defined BFC and remains one of the club's biggest strengths," he adds.

The jump from the Reliance Foundation Development League (RFDL) to senior football, however, was a major step forward. After impressing with his appearance in the BFC B team, he earned his place in the main squad. While he always backed his technical ability, adapting to the physical demands of senior football required time and adjustment. The youngster says he is now trying to adapt to that side of the game and embrace it, gradually becoming more comfortable with the intensity.

Like millions across the footballing world, Varshneya also draws inspiration from Lionel Messi. A passionate Barca supporter, the youngster expressed delight over the club's recent La Liga triumph.

Despite the growing attention around his career, the Bengaluru boy still turns to family for emotional support. On difficult days, conversations with his sister help him stay positive and mentally refreshed. Away from football, though, the 21-year-old still holds on to the simple comforts of home. His ultimate guilty pleasure is a plate of chole bhature, especially when his mother makes it, while his current playlist, featuring tracks of Bad Bunny and from Ranveer Singh-starrer *Dhurandhar*, which he says helps him switch off from the noise of packed stadiums and rising expectations. With strong mentorship and a system that suits his fame, Varshneya now dreams of wearing the India jersey and making the country proud.

Teenage twins Trisha and Tara Macaden, who appeared in Disney show *Electric Bloom*, recently performed in B'luru. The duo chats about memories on set, writing music in LA and juggling school

# TWO-PART HARMONY

**MAHIMA NAGARAJU**

FOR 17-year-old Trisha Macaden, who grew up watching shows like *Austin and Ally* and *High School Musical* on Disney Channel, getting the call that she would be acting in one was nothing short of a dream come true. "I remember having an initial state of shock. It took me a couple of hours to let it sink in," she says, recalling the moment she heard that she would have a recurring supporting role in the musical comedy *Electric Bloom* as Shelly LeBrock. Being one half of a musical duo with her twin sister Tara, the two split their time between recording music in LA and living in Bengaluru. Recently, they regaled a crowd at The Bangalore Club with a mix of retro, jazz covers and original songs.

Looking back at her time on set, what sticks with Trisha the most is learning how the 'Disney magic' happens behind the camera. "It's a complete change in perspective. I've always loved watching shows, but I got to understand how directors bring their magic and how writers work. After each scene, the cast would grab a bunch of snacks, sit near the set and talk about all the stuff we could have done differently – the props that went wrong and all the funny noises we made. It was fun to have that kind of closeness." Tara adds, "I remember Trisha would come back and tell me, 'Oh my god, I got to try on my costumes' and things like that."

Tara didn't have to make peace with just hearing about it, though, as she soon got to make a surprise appearance in the 'How We Defeated a Jingle Bell Bully' episode, playing Trisha's character, Shelly's, cousin. "That week was incredible because at home, even though I'm the younger twin, I have a little bit of a bossy angle over Tara. But for her to take on that role and be the bigger diva than my character, was fun. Looking back, I just know that little Tara and Trisha would have had their jaws on the floor."

Trisha (left) and Tara Macaden

> *It's a complete change in perspective. I've always loved watching shows, but I got to understand how directors bring their magic and how writers work.*
>
> Trisha Macaden, musician-actor

This journey started early last year when the duo's mom posted a video of their cover of *Via Dolorosa*, which ended up reaching a broadway music producer, getting them the opportunity to go to LA and record music. "Growing up in a musical household, we always loved singing and performing," says Tara, adding, "But this process of working with professionals opened our eyes to the world of creating original songs."

Initially planning to record an upbeat track, the homesickness they were feeling gave their music a different turn, resulting in *Slow Motion*. "It was the day before our birthday and we had just found out that we're going to be staying there a couple more months. It really hit us that we'd be moving away from school and our friends. We had decided to make something happy, but now, we had all these emotions and the lyrics just flowed out about leaving home," shares Trisha.

The twins have been pursuing their music career while regularly posting covers on their popular Instagram page and juggling school during a crucial phase – 12th standard. When asked about what's next, the duo say they want to take things one step at a time. "We definitely want to pursue music and acting, but the biggest thing we've realised is that the journey is the destination. It's exciting to stay in that realm of enjoying the ride and taking each opportunity as it comes," says Trisha. Tara adds that right now, exams are all that's on their mind. While summer vacations are on for their peers, the duo is set to sit their exams this month, having finished their studies through open schooling.

A still of Trisha as Shelly LeBrock in *Electric Bloom*

*CE* INTERACTS WITH ACTOR AVIKA GOR ABOUT HER UPCOMING FILM *UGLY STORY*

# Good, Bad and Ugly

**TEJAL SINHA**

FOR many, **Avika Gor** will always be remembered as the innocent Anandi from *Balika Vadhu*, but over the years, the actor has quietly reshaped that image through layered, emotionally intense roles that challenge both her and the audience. From navigating the dark emotional landscape of *Ugly Story* to speaking openly about confidence, relationships, and self-worth, Gor is embracing stories that are raw and deeply human.

*Excerpts*

**How do you look back at your journey so far?**
I feel proud that people still remember me after all these years. Child artistes often struggle to make a successful transition as they grow up, and I wanted to change that perception. I chose projects and characters that helped audiences connect with me as an actor, and I love how personally they relate to my work.

**What makes you say yes to a script?**
I have been conscious with the idea of not taking up characters where I'm not doing anything, where I'm just furniture or dancing around trees. The first reference while selecting a project is the script and what my character is adding to it, how important it is to the script and what I get to showcase as an actor. I'm very selfish that way, but that's how it's been.

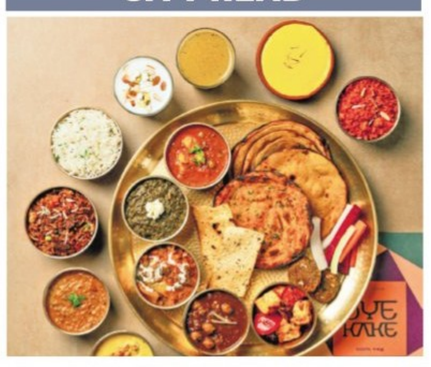
**What was your first reaction when you read the script of *Ugly Story*?**
When I heard the script, my thought was, 'Are we glorifying toxicity?' I asked my director and he explained that while the film shows the guy's perspective and his idea of love, it also honestly portrays the girl's suffering and why such behaviour is unacceptable. What stayed with me was how the story explored every phase of the girl's life. Some scenes were uncomfortable to shoot, but the director captured the harsh reality of what people may be going through behind closed doors. I'm glad I could be part of it.

**How did you prepare yourself for the role?**
I had to emotionally detach myself from the character because getting too attached would have affected me in real life. During intense scenes, I would step away and watch memes to stay sane. It was a difficult space to be in that there were times I wanted to run away from the set. Some scenes were extremely uncomfortable, especially because they involved behaviour I would never tolerate in real life.

**Did playing this character change the way you look at relationships or love?**
It is probably the saddest character I've played. After doing this film, I felt grateful for the maturity, love and stability in my relationship with Milind Chandwani (who has strong ties to B'luru) because the film made me realise how many people may be silently going through toxic situations in real life.

**Future project?**
The only upcoming project I can talk about right now is *Khatron Ke Khiladi 15*. There are some Telugu and Hindi projects as well, and the announcements will come soon.

## CITY READ



### Restaurant with Amritsari menu opens first outlet in city

Mumbai's popular Amritsari vegetarian brand Oye Kake has opened its first Bengaluru outlet on MG Road, open from 11am to 11pm. Founded by Pankaj Gupta and Avinash Gupta under Flavour Pot Foods, the restaurant brings a 100 per cent vegetarian Punjabi dining experience inspired by Amritsar's streets, home kitchens and langar traditions. The menu focuses on Amritsari fare prepared by trained ustaads, featuring tandoor-fresh kulchas with various stuffings, chaats like dahi bhalla, chole samosa chaat, laccha tokri chaat, raj kachori, gol gappe, paneer tikka, dal makhani, pindi chole, the signature kulhad malai lassi and more. The restaurant also offers a weekend desi ghee breakfast and the Guru Seva Ki Thali, an unlimited community-style meal served every Thursday.

## FOCUS FEATURE

# Cracking the Genetic Code of IVF: How PGT-A is Restoring Hope for Indian Couples

For many Indian couples, the journey toward parenthood is not just a medical endeavor but an emotional marathon marked by the silent trauma of repeated miscarriages and failed IVF cycles. While modern medicine has made massive strides, a persistent question often lingers in the consultation room: Why did it fail again?

According to Dr. Devika Gunasheela, Director of the Gunasheela Fertility Centre in Bengaluru and a leading fertility expert, the answer often lies hidden within the microscopic architecture of the embryo itself. "It is well known among all IVF specialists and embryologists that just because an embryo is morphologically normal—meaning it is very good to look at and has an equal division pattern—it does not necessarily mean that it is genetically normal," she explains. This fundamental paradox is why even the most "perfect-looking" embryos often fail to result in a live birth.

The landscape of reproductive medicine is undergoing a seismic shift. Dr. Devika Gunasheela highlights that according to the recent 2026 PGDIS (Pre-implantation Genetic Diagnosis International Society) Task Force recommendations, counseling for PGT-A is now recommended for women across all age groups opting for IVF. This isn't just a clinical preference; it is a response to the "endless list" of complications associated with traditional multi-embryo transfers.

Dr. Devika Gunasheela's observations emphasize that repeated failures produce immense stress for both patients and their husbands. This translates into significant financial burdens, emotional disturbances, a loss of self-esteem, and a profound sense of "social isolation." By utilizing PGT-A to increase the pregnancy rate, specialists can mitigate these pressures and break the grueling cycle of hope followed by heartbreak.

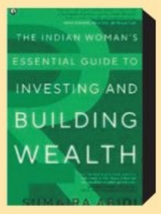
Dr Devika Gunasheela

At Gunasheela Fertility Centre, pregnancy rates have reached 72%–75% in patients where genetically normal embryos are transferred. For women more than 35 years of age, the success rate reaches 60% with a single genetically normal embryo, compared to the normal rate of just 30%–32%.

A critical component of Dr. Devika Gunasheela's advocacy is the move toward Single Embryo Transfer (SET). By utilizing PGT-A to identify the single most viable candidate, doctors can avoid the complications of twins or triplets. "Multiple pregnancies are a big problem," she warns. Her clinical notes list an endless list of complications associated with multiple births, including increased risks of abortions, high blood pressure, diabetes mellitus, placenta previa, and bleeding during pregnancy. It also increases the risk of intrauterine growth restriction and quite often Neonatal ICU (NICU) admissions.

Dr Devika Gunasheela concludes, "With advancements like PGT-A, many couples who struggled for years are now holding their babies. To every couple still waiting, I say: stay positive and seek the right guidance." For more information, contact: Gunasheela Fertility Centre, Basavanagudi, Bangalore. Phone: 080-46462600

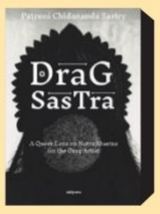
## BOOK NOOK




### The Indian Woman's Essential Guide To Investing And Building Wealth

**By Sumaira Abidi**

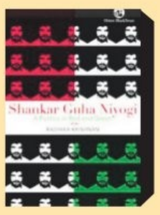
It is designed to help women transform their relationship with money. For too long, women have been encouraged to save but not to invest. Yet, saving alone is rarely enough to build real financial security.




### Drag Sastra

**By Patruni Chidananda Sastry**

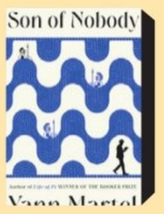
The book moves through Rasa theory, the distinction between Lokadharmi and Natyadharmi as ways of thinking about character and audience, the use of mudras in a drag context, the geometry of drag and so on.




### Shankar Guha Niyogi: A Politics in Red and Green

**By Radhika Krishnan**

It delves into the rich ideas and experiences of a movement born in Chhattisgarh in 1977 to argue for the possibility of a radically different engagement of labour with questions of ecology and technology.




### Son of Nobody

**By Yann Martel**

It moves between ancient Greece and the present day, but its preoccupation is less with the past itself than with its afterlives.

**MICROCOSM OF NATURE**

Artist Sultana Hasan walks a visitor through her ongoing exhibit 'Rooted in Nature' at MKF Museum of Art, Lavelle Road | KEVIN NASHON

## QUICKFIX

### OREO WHITE CHOCOLATE FUDGE

**INGREDIENTS**

- **Condensed milk:** 1 tin
- **White chocolate (broken into pieces):** 1 bar
- **Biscuits (roughly broken):** 8–10 Oreos

**METHOD**

- In a microwave-safe bowl, combine condensed milk and white chocolate.
- Microwave in one-minute intervals at 600W (or ~50°C), stirring in between, until fully melted and smooth (about three minutes totally).
- Add the broken Oreo biscuits and mix well. Transfer the mixture to a lined tray and spread evenly.
- Refrigerate or freeze until set. Cut into pieces and serve.

Contributed by **Mohit,** Tiruchy

## ASK AN XPERT

**DR VIVEK ARORA**

*The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.*

**Collagen supports a dog's joints, skin, coat, digestion and overall wellbeing. What can I do so that my dog is covered for the protein?**

Collagen is important for a dog's joints, skin, coat, gut health and overall wellbeing. You can support collagen naturally through high-quality animal proteins such as chicken, fish, mutton and bone broth, which provide amino acids and gelatin. Commercial supplements containing hydrolysed collagen, glucosamine, chondroitin, or fish collagen can be added, especially for senior or active dogs. Ensure a balanced diet with sufficient vitamins C and E, which aid collagen synthesis. Always consult a veterinarian before starting supplements to determine the right type and dosage for your dog's age, weight and health status.

## FITBIT

### WHY DOES CALF TRAINING DESERVE MORE ATTENTION?

Calves are often the most ignored muscle group in the gym. Many people focus on building bigger arms, shoulders, or abs, while lower legs get very little attention. But strong calves do much more than improve appearance. They support balance, stability, movement and overall lower-body strength. Whether you walk, run, climb stairs or lift weights, your calf muscles work constantly. Weak calves can affect posture, reduce athletic performance and even increase injury risk. That is why adding focused calf exercises to your routine matters more than most people realise.

**Here are some effective calf exercises that help improve strength and muscle growth.**

- **STANDING CALF RAISES:** This is one of the simplest and most effective calf exercises. Standing calf raises mainly target the gastrocnemius, the larger visible calf muscle. The key is to move slowly, rise fully onto the toes and lower the heels with control.
- **SEATED CALF RAISES:** Unlike standing variations, seated calf raises place more focus on the soleus muscle, which lies underneath the gastrocnemius. Training both muscles helps improve overall calf size and lower-leg strength.
- **LEG PRESS CALF RAISES:** This variation allows heavier loading while maintaining stability. It also provides a deeper stretch and contraction for the calf muscles.
- **JUMP ROPE AND EXPLOSIVE MOVEMENTS:** Plyometric exercises like jump rope, box jumps or jump squats activate the calves differently from traditional strength exercises. These movements help improve power, endurance and athletic performance.
- **TRAIN THROUGH FULL RANGE OF MOTION:** One common mistake is doing fast, partial reps. Calves respond better when exercises are performed slowly with a complete stretch and contraction.

Calf muscles are used daily through walking and standing, so they often need higher repetitions and regular training to grow. Training them once in a while usually does not produce noticeable results. Giving them a little more attention can make workouts more balanced and help the entire body move better over time.

By Abhishek K, fitness expert, cult – a fitness and wellness platform

## WHATWHENWHYWHERE

### Paint it Out

Ever painted without actually using paint? Ditch the traditional canvas and step into the art of 'painting with clay' at this workshop, which guides you through the process of using air-dry clay to create 3D textures and vibrant patterns. You'll learn to blend sculpting with painting and take home a one-of-a-kind piece.

**WHEN:** May 18, 2pm onwards
**WHERE:** Thirdspace – Art Café & Community, Hosur Main Road
**CALL:** 97394 79209

### Shaped by Soul

Join a space where your artistic expression can flow through pottery. The beginner-friendly event offers a community-driven environment where you can learn new techniques and take home your own ceramic pieces.

**WHEN:** May 18, 7pm
**WHERE:** Ondu Plate, Domlur
**CALL:** 72598 88990

### Puzzle Party

Put your problem-solving skills to the test at a collaborative event hosted for strangers to connect. From intricate jigsaw puzzles to brain-teasing tabletop challenges, this session focuses on the joy of piecing things together in a social setting. It is an activity for those who love a good mental workout and a chill vibe.

**WHEN:** May 18, 6pm
**WHERE:** Underline Center, Domlur
**DETAILS:** district.in

### High Beat

Beat the Monday blues with high-energy beats as DJ Harsh spins the best of Bollywood and commercial hits. Take your gang to the dance floor and enjoy a vibrant night out with friends.

**WHEN:** May 18, 8pm
**WHERE:** No Limmits Lounge And Club, Brigade Road
**DETAILS:** district.in

### Step by Step

Here is your chance to pick up a new skill and meet fellow dancers as you step onto this dance floor and learn the basics of Jive and Ballroom dancing. Designed for those with zero dance experience, the session promises to focus on footwork and leading all while moving to high-energy swing and classic ballroom tunes.

**WHEN:** May 18, 12pm
**WHERE:** New York Dance Classes, Bilekahalli
**CALL:** 98187 41350

### Funny Bones

Kickstart your week with a dose of humour at this standup session that promises to be unpredictable with the rawest jokes and biggest surprises. One can expect a surprise lineup featuring a mix of seasoned comics testing new specials and the city's rising stars.

**WHEN:** May 18, 9.30pm
**WHERE:** TAG Comedy Club, Koramangala
**DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

## EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

## ARTCORNER

### QUIET GRACE

Bhubaneswar artist Raghunath Sahoo depicts the Jagannath Temple in its serene stillness

# PLAYIN' IT BIG

**ŠKODA KODIAQ GETS AN IMPRESSIVE FACELIFT. HERE'S A QUICK SCAN**

**SPECs**

**Engine:** Turbocharged Petrol

**Cylinders:** 4

**Displacement (cc):** 1,984

**Max. power (kW at rpm):** 150/4,500 - 6,000

**Max. torque (Nm at rpm):** 320/1,500 - 4,400

**Fuel consumption (CMVR rule 115):** 14.86 Kmpl

**DIMENSIONS (mm)**

**Length:** 4,758

**Width:** 1,864

**Height:** 1,679

**Wheel base:** 2,791

**Ground clearance:** 155

**Seating capacity:** 5 (Lounge) / 7 (Sportline, Selection L&K)

**Boot space:** 281 / 786 / 1,976 litre

**Fuel tank capacity:** 62 litre

LEKSHMI C PILLAI



HERE comes the Škoda Kodiaq 2026. Just a year after the release of its second-generation premium seven-seater SUV in India, Škoda gives it an update. Not a bumper redesign 'facelift', but a much-needed tech enrichment.

I spent a day with the new Kodiaq in Kochi last week. Let me share my experience with you. Kodiaq comes in three variants – Lounge (5-seater), Sportline and Selection L&K. I drove the one with top spec, the Selection L&K.

## BIGGER

Kodiaq is 4.75 metres long. And we will notice this behemoth from long away, even without pesky details like measurements.

The rear overhang is very obvious. And the height is obviously lower than that of a full-size SUV from Toyota or MG. However, the longer length allows for a sleeker profile, underscored by details like the d-pillar in dark chrome finish.

The face is marked by a wide grille and a horizontal light strip that runs through it, connecting the headlamp units. This signature element now appears in the updated midsize SUV Kushaq too. The C-shaped tail lamps are connected by a decorative strip, giving them an elevated look.

## SPACIOUS

The cabin is made up of premium plastics and leather. Black panels and brown leather give the interiors an indisputable elegance. The 32.77 cm infotainment screen and the 26.03 cm info screen behind the steering, though utility-focused, have a classy look.

One big plus in the new model is the presence of knobs and physical switches for basic controls. Three intelligent knobs have a digital screen as well as rotary function.

The ergonomic seats in the front row are wide and supportive. They have extendable thigh support, ventilation and even a massage function. However, for a massage, one needs to peruse the sub-menus.

Second-row seats are also spacious and comfortable. But the third row is of not much use. Cramped and difficult to enter. Also, one needs to sit in the knee-up position to fit here.

However, there are a lot of storage spaces, true to the 'simply clever' philosophy of the Škoda.

The fun-to-use gear selector is in the steering column. So, the centre console is for storage and two wireless chargers. And the panoramic sunroof with open function on the front panel makes the cabin much brighter.

There is 281 litre boot space even after using all three rows. But, if you fold the third row, the boot space will be 786 litres. In effect, incredible payoffs with little effort.

XPRESS HIGHWAY
SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

## POWERFUL

Kodiaq provides a powerful but composed driving experience. It continues the combination of a two-litre turbo petrol engine with the seven-speed dual clutch automatic transmission. And the smooth partnership gives us a nice driving experience.

The suspension may not be fully soft, but offers very good ride comfort. The SUV comes with all-wheel drive equipment, but I couldn't try it on a spin on the off-road to check further. The fuel efficiency in the city drive was near 10 kmpl, and on highways, a little higher.

## NEW TECH

The biggest addition to the Kodiaq in 2026 is the Advanced Driver Assist system (ADAS). Škoda has been fine-tuning the system for Indian conditions.

As a result, features like lane-keep assist are not over-enthusiastic. The main ADAS features are LED matrix headlights with adaptive front-lighting system (AFS), adaptive cruise control, front assist with warning and braking reaction, lane-keep assist, blind spot detection, lane change assist and the rear traffic alert and exit warning system.

The 360-degree area view camera, intelligent park assist and gesture-controlled boot opening add to the useful tech features. When we engage the park assist, the car parks in the right bay without steering or pedal inputs. The ADAS, the 360-degree camera, and the park assist are also available in the Sportline variant.

## THE VERDICT

The Kodiaq is now more techy and attractive, mainly because of ADAS. Such a big car really benefits from the sensor-assisted system. And if you don't want a techy car, the Lounge variant is the best option. It is priced at ₹36.99 lakh, ₹3 lakh less than the outgoing model. The Sportline is priced at ₹44.99 lakh, and the Selection L&K is priced at ₹46.99 lakh.

For anyone looking for a premium full-size SUV, the Škoda Kodiaq is a fantastic choice.

**The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'**

**NEW RELEASE**

**New Tata Altroz iCNG AMT**

Tata Motors has introduced the AMT option in the Altroz iCNG, making it the first and only premium hatchback in India to offer an Automated Manual Transmission with a CNG powertrain. This addition enhances everyday drivability, offering a more relaxed and convenient driving experience, especially in urban conditions. At the core of the iCNG technology is a single advanced ECU, enabling a smooth and seamless transition between petrol and CNG modes. Price ranges from ₹8.69 lakh to ₹10.76 lakh (Ex-showroom Delhi).

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, (OLD NAME) UBEDULLA ABDUL WAHAB SAB, residing at No.15, 2nd Main 3rd Cross, Vijaya Bank Layout, Bangalore-560076, have changed my name from (OLD NAME) UBEDULLA ABDUL WAHAB SAB to (NEW NAME) UBEDULLA vide affidavit dated 16.05.2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G G, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, RUSHEEL KUMAR UTTAMCHAND JAIN (OLD NAME), AGED ABOUT 26 YEARS, S/O UTTAMCHAND JAIN GHEWARCHAND JAIN, RESIDING AT NO 57, VASANTH KUNJ, 1ST FLOOR, CHIKANNAMMA TEMPLE STREET, CUBBONPET CROSS, BENGALURU 560002, KARNATAKA STATE, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RUSHELL KUMAR (NEW NAME), VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 04/MAY/2026, SWORN BEFORE NOTARY MEER HASSAN BENGALURU.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, KIRAN SHET, aged about 45 years, S/o Prakash Shet, Residing at No. 356, 7th Main, 6th Cross, RBI Layout, J P Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore South, Bengaluru-560078, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from KIRAN PRAKASH SHET to KIRAN SHET henceforth I shall be known and called as KIRAN SHET for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 16/05/2026 sworn before Advocate and Notary MAHESHA.J.J at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, NARAYANI V N S/o Nanjundaiah, Aged 66 years, R/at No.692F, 12th A Cross BEL Layout 1st Phase Bharath Nagar Magadi Road Bengaluru North Bengaluru-560091 have changed My Name to NARAYAN V N Vide Affidavit Dated- 15.05.2026 Before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, NADIMPALLI J BHAVANI, W/o. Late Penmatsa Srinivasa Varma, Resident at Flat No.303, 4th Floor, Kanaka Residency Main Road, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru-560111, have changed my name from NADIMPALLI J BHAVANI to P JANAKI BHAVANI vide affidavit dated 16-05-2026 sworn before notary S.N MADHU, Reg. No. 10108, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
We, Manikandan Amal Kaideri and Sangeetha Edaclavan Koroth parents of ADWAITH NAMBIAR, both residing at: Flat No.19034, Tower-19, Percel-3, Prestige Lakeside Habitat, Varthur Gunjur, Bangalore-560087, Hereby declare that, we have changed our minor Son's name from 'ADWAITH EDACLAVAN KOROTH' to 'ADWAITH NAMBIAR', vide Affidavit dated 16.05.2026, Sworn before Advocate and Notary A.M. Rajasekar, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, THIMMARAJU PRAMEELA (OLD NAME), AGED ABOUT 57YEARS, W/O SRIRAMA, RESIDING AT NO 66, 6TH CROSS, N S PARADISE LAYOUT, AVALAHALLI, VIRGONAGAR POST, BENGALURU 560049, KARNATAKA STATE, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRAMILA THIMMARAJU (NEW NAME), VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 04/MAY/2026, SWORN BEFORE NOTARY MEER HASSAN, BENGALURU.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, BABITHA (OLD NAME), AGED ABOUT 54 YEARS, W/O UTTAMCHAND JAIN GHEWARCHAND JAIN, RESIDING AT NO 57, VASANTH KUNJ, 1ST FLOOR, CHIKANNAMMA TEMPLE STREET, CUBBONPET CROSS, BENGALURU 560002, KARNATAKA STATE, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BABITHA JAIN (NEW NAME), VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 04/MAY/2026, SWORN BEFORE NOTARY MEER HASSAN BENGALURU.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, PRAKASH DEVARAKOLLAD, S/o Late Shamanna Devarakollad, aged about 47 years, R/at No. 213, 2nd Floor, LK Gloria, 5th B Cross, Varadaraju Layout, Amruthalli, Bengaluru-560092, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from PRAKASH DEVARAKOLLAD to PRAKASH DEVARAKOLLAD SHAMANNA alias PRAKASH D.S. henceforth I shall be known and called as PRAKASH DEVARAKOLLAD SHAMANNA alias PRAKASH D.S. for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 16/05/2026 sworn before Advocate and Notary ONKARAPPA .N.R at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, AVERILL MELANIE BLANCHE SEQUEIRA, W/o Anirban Malakar, major, R/at No. E001, E block, SJR palazza city, Dodakanelli, Sarjapur road, VTC: Carmelaram. PO: Carmelaram District: Bangalore State: Karnataka pin code: 560035, have changed my name to AVERILL SEQUEIRA, vide affidavit dated: 16.05.2026 before Notary S.I BALAGURU, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, Gopika.R, Aged about 22 years, D/o. Ramesh .S.C, residing at Seegehalli Village, Kadugodi Post, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from GANGOTRI to GOPIKA.R vide affidavit dated 16.05.2026 sworn before H.M. Govindaraju, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, T R SHREYAS, S/o. T N Ramamurthy Bhat, residing at No. 10, Sri Sri Maa Anandamayee Bhagavatha Bhavan, 16th Main, J.P Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-560078, have changed my name to SHREYAS BHARADWAJ, vide affidavit dated 14.05.2026, sworn before notary H.G Venkataramu, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, SANTHOSH NAGARAJU (OLD NAME), AGED ABOUT 34 YEARS, S/O NAGARAJU, RESIDING AT NO 33, KEMPAPURA AGRAHARA, THYAMAGONDLU HOBLI, AREBOMMANAHALLI POST, NELAMANGALA TALUK, BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT 560111, KARNATAKA STATE, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANTHOSHA NAGARAJU (NEW NAME), VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 08/MAY/2026,SWORN BEFORE NOTARY S. I. BALAGURU BENGALURU.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, SEEMA HITESH KATRELA (OLD NAME), AGED ABOUT 44 YEARS, W/O HITESH KATRELA, RESIDING AT NO.7/4, 7TH CROSS, LAKSHMI ROAD, NEAR JAIN TEMPLE, SHANTHINAGAR, BENGALURU 560027, KARNATAKA STATE, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SEEMA KATRELA (NEW NAME), VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 15/MAY/2026, SWORN BEFORE NOTARY MEER HASSAN, BENGALURU.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, RAHUL ANIL PRASAD, S/o Late janikiram naidu .M.L, aged about 48 years, R/at No.12 and 13, 1st floor, No.2, 1st main, 4th Cross, Near K.K Travels, BEML 5th Stage, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore-560098, do hereby declare that both the names i.e. J.R.A PRASAD and RAHUL ANIL PRASAD are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as RAHUL ANIL PRASAD vide affidavit dated 14/05/2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary Smt. VATSALA at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I. S JOSEPHINE MARY alias JOSEPHINE MARY S aged about 57 years, Wife of Sri. S Anthony, Residing at No. 13, 2nd Cross, Jalahalli West Post, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560 015, I declare that both the names i.e., S JOSEPHINE MARY and JOSEPHINE MARY S are one and the same and both the names belongs to me only and for none others, vide affidavit dated 12/5/2026 sworn to before V Anjanappa Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, GANESHA, Son of Vijaykumar, Aged about 22 years, (D.O.B. : 15.04.2004) resident of No. 19-1-74, Saraswathi, Airforce Road, New Adarsh Colony, Bidar - 585 401, today at Bengaluru, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from GANESH VIJAYKUMAR to GANESHA vide affidavit dated 16.05.2026 sworn before V. Rajashekhara, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, SEVU MADHU RATHOD S/o. Madhu Rathod, aged about 51 years, R/at No.263, Harokyathanahalli Village, Makali Post, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk do hereby Sworn before Advocate & Notary T.V. Bhadravijaya Bangalore vide affidavit dated 17-05-2026 that my name was SEVU and in future also the same name will continues and also declare that, I continue my name as SEVU only in future also.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I,CHINTU JAIN (OLD NAME), AGED ABOUT 42 YEARS, S/O JEETMAL JAIN, RESIDING AT NO 2/1, MATRU KRUPA, 3RD FLOOR, JAIN TEMPLE STREET CROSS, V V PURAM, BENGALURU 560004, KARNATAKA STATE, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JAY JAIN (NEW NAME), VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED 08/MAR/2026, SWORN BEFORE NOTARY S. I. BALAGURU BENGALURU.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, KIRAN SHET, aged about 45 years, S/o Prakash Shet, Residing at No. 356, 7th Main, 6th Cross, RBI Layout, J P Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore South, Bengaluru-560078, do hereby declare that I have changed my son's name from DRUV SHET to DHRUV SHET henceforth I shall be known and called as DHRUV SHET for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 16/05/2026 sworn before Advocate and Notary MAHESHA.J.J at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, NOOR AHMED MOULA SAB TOTAD, aged 69 years, S/o. Moula Sab Totad, Residing at No. 128, D Block, Radiant Jasmeen Terrace Apartment, Jakkur Main Road, Shivanahalli, Opp. VDB Apartment, Bengaluru -560064, Karnataka, have changed my name to NOOR AHMED TOTAD, vide affidavit dated: 15.05.2026 before notary S.I. BALAGURU, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, Archana Chourasia, wife of Vivek Kumar, aged about 39 years, residing at D16, 602, Sandeep Vihar AWHO, Hoskote Road, Kannamangala, Bengaluru - 560067, have changed my name from Archana Ashokkumar Chourasia to Archana Chourasia, vide affidavit dated 16/5/2026 sworn to before R S Vijay Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, YADHUKUMAR N, S/o Nanjundeshwara K, residing at No.539, 2nd Cross, 15th Main, Opp Little Angle School, Bank Colony, BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore - 560050, hereby declare that YADHUKUMAR N and YADUKUMAR N belongs to me only and they are not different or distinct and I use my name as YADHUKUMAR N, in all day to day transactions, vide affidavit dated 15-05-2026 before Notary Public before Notary Public MOHAMMED HUSSAIN K, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, BHAGYALAXMI, W/o. Venkatesh Kedlaya, Residing at No. 10, Simha Layout, Uttarahalli Hobli, Chikkalasandra, Subramanyapura Post, Bengaluru -560061, Karnataka, have changed my name to BHAGYALAKSHMI vide affidavit dated: 15.05.2026 before notary ARAVIND PATIL .G.G, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, SHIVAKUMAR KOTRAPLA GOWDRA, S/o. Veerappa Kotrapla Gowdra, Residing at No. 661/B-6, Shivanagoodu, 2nd Floor, SS Hospital Road, Laxmi Layout, Near Petrol Bunk, Davangere -577004, Karnataka, have changed my minor son's name from VIHAAN KOTRAPLA GOWDA to VIHAAN KOTRAPLA GOWDRA vide affidavit dated: 15.05.2026 before notary ARAVIND PATIL .G.G, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, Ms. SUPRIYA.I, D/o Shri S. Immanuel, Aged about 27 years, residing at # 34/35, 2nd Cross, Gargathamma Layout, Kithaganoor, K.R Puram, Bangalore - 560 036, hereby declare that MARIA SUPRIYA and SUPRIYA .I both the names belong to one and the same person i.e., and continue my name in future as SUPRIYA .I Vide Affidavit dated 13/05/2026 sworn before Advocate & Notary L. Gopalakrishna, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, Diya Jagadish Koligudda D/o Jagadish Koligudda, aged about 19 years, resident of No 150/151 Bharani Signature SF 202, 2nd main 5th cross Defence Layout, Sahakaranagar, Bangalore 560092 have changed my name from DIYA JAGADISH KOLIGUDDA to DIYA KOLIGUDD vide affidavit dated 16/05/2026 sworn before advocate and notary C.N. CHANDRASHEKAR, Bangalore

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, KAUSHAL JOSHI, Aged about 46 Years (Date of Birth 25/02/1980), Residing at No. A 502, 5th Floor, Renaissance Temple Bells, Opp ISKCON, 25/1, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore North, Post Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore 560022, have changed my name to KAUSHAL DHIMANT JOSHI vide affidavit dated: 16.05.2026 before advocate and notary Smt. A. Manjula, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
We, 1. SHEETAL SHARAT VARDHAMAN, S/o. Sharat Baburao Vardhaman, aged about 47 years & 2. MYTHRI SHEETAL VARDHAMAN, W/o. Sheetal Sharat Vardhaman, aged about 43 years, resident of : No. B2-402, Shriram Shreyas Apartments, Telecom Layout, Near Tennis Village, Virupakshapura, Kodigehalli, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560097, Father and Mother of STUTI SHEETAL VARDHAMAN, do hereby declare that, in the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (Class-X) Pass Certificate and Statement of Marks bearing Unique ID No. 8460617 issued by Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination, New Delhi, pertaining to our daughter, the name of Father is mentioned as SHEETAL VARDHAMAN and the name of Mother is mentioned as MYTHRI VARDHAMAN and further we declare that, SHEETAL SHARAT VARDHAMAN & SHEETAL VARDHAMAN are one and the same and pertain to one person i.e., 1st of us and the names MYTHRI SHEETAL VARDHAMAN & MYTHRI VARDHAMAN are one and the same and pertain to one person i.e, 2nd of us, vide Affidavit dated : 16/05/2026 sworn before Advocate & Notary – DIWAKAR N KAGAWAD, Bangalore.

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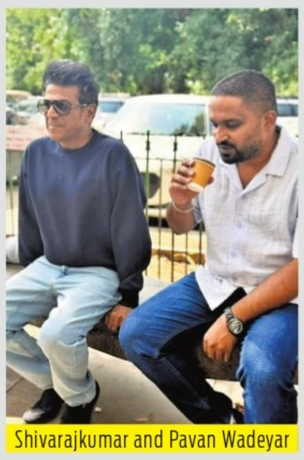
# WE WANTED SOMETHING FRESH YET AGE-APPROPRIATE FOR SHIVANNA IN *BAIL*: PAVAN WADEYAR

While Shivanna's salt-and-pepper look in Bail turns heads, the action drama presents him in a striking new avatar, with its noir-styled teaser sparking fan frenzy ahead of its Varamahalakshmi festival release

A SHARADHAA

SHIVARAJKUMAR has surprised fans with a striking salt-and-pepper makeover in the much-awaited action drama *Bail*. Along with unveiling the stylish first glimpse, the makers have also confirmed the film's release window. Directed by Pavan Wadeyar and produced by K Venkat Narayana under KVN Productions, the high-voltage entertainer is set to hit theatres during the Varamahalakshmi festival season.


Shivarajkumar and Pavan Wadeyar

Known for constantly reinventing himself, Shivanna appears in a never-before-seen avatar in *Bail*. The look has instantly triggered conversations across social media. The glimpse presents the actor in a rugged yet classy look that balances mass appeal with understated elegance.

In the film, Shivanna plays a character named Viji. The teaser opens on a rain-drenched Bengaluru night, where Viji is seen calmly feeding biscuits to his pet dog before making a stylish entry. The noir-inspired visuals have already struck a chord with audiences.

The dialogue exchange in the teaser has especially amplified curiosity around the film. Veteran actor Sai Kumar's character warns Viji over a phone call, saying, "The fire you've started is not just burning a city, it's burning the nation... after all this, how are you still so silent?" And the chilling reply is, "Silence should never be mistaken for lack of courage."

For Pavan Wadeyar, who is collaborating with Shivanna for the first time, designing the actor's appearance was crucial. "*Bail* is Shivanna's 131st film, and audiences have already seen him in many looks over the years. We wanted to give him something entirely fresh while staying true to the character's age and personality," says the director.

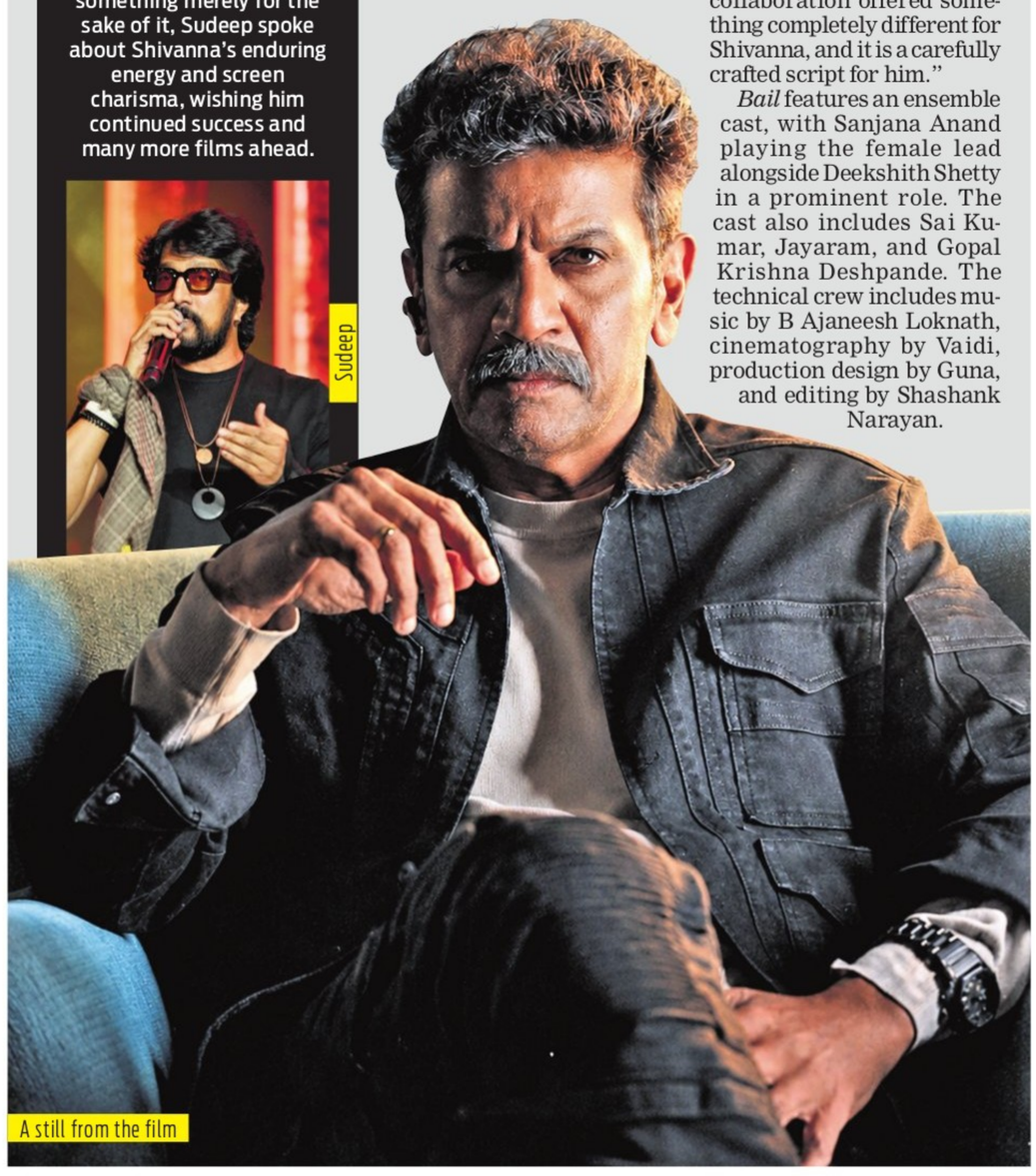
He reveals that the team worked extensively with digital sketches before finalising the look. Pavan Wadeyar also mentions that he spent nearly a year refining the screenplay, drawing inspiration from real-life incidents and contemporary events. "I wanted to make sure our first collaboration offered something completely different for Shivanna, and it is a carefully crafted script for him."

*Bail* features an ensemble cast, with Sanjana Anand playing the female lead alongside Deekshith Shetty in a prominent role. The cast also includes Sai Kumar, Jayaram, and Gopal Krishna Deshpande. The technical crew includes music by B Ajaneesh Loknath, cinematography by Vaidi, production design by Guna, and editing by Shashank Narayan.

**Sudeep compares Shivanna's *Bail* look to Dr Rajkumar**

The first look of *Bail* was unveiled during Ajaneesh Loknath's debut live concert, where actor Sudeep openly praised Shivanna's transformation. Speaking at the event, Sudeep said one particular shot of Shivanna seated in a chair instantly reminded him of legendary actor Rajkumar. Clarifying that he does not praise something merely for the sake of it, Sudeep spoke about Shivanna's enduring energy and screen charisma, wishing him continued success and many more films ahead.


Sudeep


A still from the film

Meghana Gaonkar
A still from the film

## Meghana Gaonkar plays a lawyer in Ranjani Raghavan's directorial debut

CE FEATURES

LEGENDARY composer Ilaiyaraaja is returning to Kannada cinema with *Di Di Dikki*, the directorial debut of actor-writer Ranjani Raghavan. Produced by Jadesh K Hampi under the Hampi Pictures banner, with support from RK & AK Entertainment, the filming has bern wrapped up.

While Prem plays the lead and Vihaan Ganesh, son of Ganesh, appears in a significant role, actor Meghana Gaonkar is also set to play a pivotal character in the film.

Sharing details about her role, Meghana reveals that *Di Di Dikki* is rooted in romance and family emotions, while also carrying a strong voice for women. "I play a lawyer who is a feminist and stands for women's rights," says Meghana, adding that the role instantly connected with her.

The actor also opened up about how she came on board the project. According to Meghana, Ranjani noticed photographs she had posted online while receiving recognition for her PhD degree. "Ranjani saw the photos and felt I suited the part. She wanted someone who looked self-made and independent, and she saw that spark in me," Meghana shares.

Praising Ranjani's writing, Meghana says the dialogues particularly stood out to her. "The dialogues are beautifully written, and Ranjani has handled the film very well," she says.

The makers are expected to announce the release date soon. Apart from *Di Di Dikki*, Meghana is also part of a couple of other projects that are yet to be officially announced.

## *Shazam* actor Grace Caroline Currey to lead *Dead Miles*

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Grace Caroline Currey, known for her roles in *Fall* and *Shazam!*, is set to front the upcoming crime thriller *Dead Miles*. The film was launched at the Cannes Market. Hailing from Minds Eye Entertainment, the film is directed and written by the Shut Eye helmer Tom Levesque, and is set to commence production in British Columbia.

The film follows Ellen (*Currey*), a struggling gig-worker, who wants to make it big as an influencer but is caught in a dark and dangerous web after encountering Nelson, a volatile criminal. Nelson drags her through a brutal night of violent heists that force her to test her endurance.

*Currey* made her debut in the 2007 film *Badland*. She went on to star in films such as *Annabelle: Creation* (2017), *Shazam!* films in 2019 and 2023, *Fall* (2022). She will next be seen in *The Leader*, directed by Michael Gallagher, alongside Tim Blake Nelson and Vera Farmiga.

Apart from this film, the actor is also part of two other Kannada projects — *Boys* and *Halka Don*

## Roopesh Shetty's Tulu film titled *Bro*

CE FEATURES

FOLLOWING the political drama *Jai*, actor-filmmaker Roopesh Shetty is now preparing for his next directorial venture, *Bro*. The project, which will be made in Tulu, is expected to go on floors in August.

Currently anchoring the Kannada *bro*adcast of the IPL cricket season, Roopesh recently unveiled the first look of *Bro*. The poster features him in a youthful avatar, sporting shades and holding a rose. Describing the film as a complete entertainer, Roopesh says, "*Bro* will be my next directorial in Tulu. *Jai* had strong political content, but this time I am going with pure entertainment."

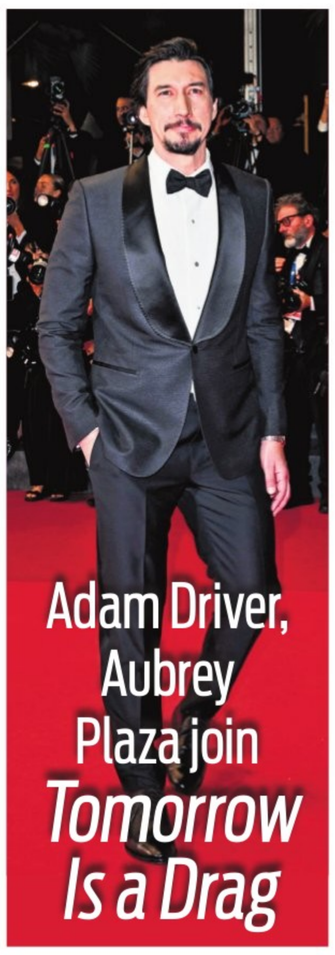
He adds that while the film is primarily being made in Tulu, the team is also planning a dubbed Kannada release.

The film is being backed by Shoolin Films, Manjunath Attavar, and Mugrody Productions. While Roopesh, who has written the story, is directing and headlining the film, the makers are currently finalising the rest of the cast and crew.

Alongside *Bro*, Roopesh is also busy with the Kannada film *Boys*, directed by Kishore. The film has music composed by Ravi Basrur. "I've completed two schedules of *Boys* already," says Roopesh. Featuring Raadhya as the female lead, *Boys* is said to be a travel-based story with youthful elements.

Interestingly, Roopesh also has a pivotal role in *Halka Don*, headlined by Pramod Shetty. The action comedy, written by Challa, is produced by KP Sreekanth under the Venus Entertainers banner.

A still from the film



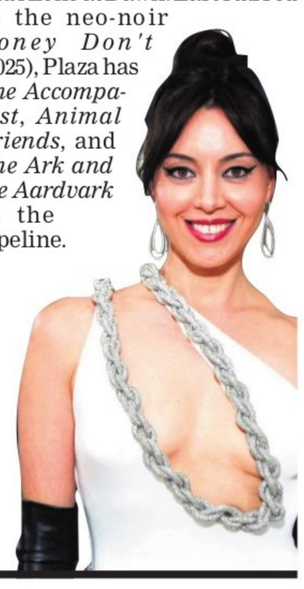
## Adam Driver, Aubrey Plaza join *Tomorrow Is a Drag*

CE FEATURES

ACTORS Adam Driver (*Star Wars, Marriage Story*) and Aubrey Plaza (*Parks and Recreation, The White Lotus, and Ingrid Goes West*) are starring in an upcoming film, *Tomorrow Is a Drag*. The film, directed by Oscar-winning filmmaker Kenneth Lonergan, also stars Vanessa Kirby (*Mission Impossible*) and Matthew Broderick (*Manchester by the Sea*).

*Tomorrow Is a Drag* marks Lonergan's first directorial effort in 10 years, following Manchester by the Sea in 2016. Casey Affleck won an Oscar for the film in the best actor category and in the original screenplay category. Sara Murphy, the producer behind Paul Thomas Anderson's One Battle After Another, is producing this film under her Fat City banner. The film is set to go on floors later this year.

Driver, whose Paper Tiger recently premiered in Cannes, will also feature in Misty Green and Alone at Dawn. Last starred in the neo-noir *Honey Don't* (2025), Plaza has *The Accompanist*, *Animal Friends*, and *The Ark and the Aardvark* in the pipeline.



## *How to Train Your Dragon 2* wraps filming

CE FEATURES

FILMMAKER Dean DeBlois has announced that his upcoming live-action *How to Train Your Dragon 2* has completed filming. Sharing a first look at Hiccup (Mason Thames), he wrote that 81 days of principal photography have been completed, and the team is now concentrating on post-production work. Nico Parker returns to play Astrid, while the other cast members include Gerard Butler as Stoick the Vast and Cate Blanchett as Valka, Hiccup's long-lost mother.

The live-action sequel to the hit 2025 film adapts the events of the *How to Train Your Dragon 2* animated film. The first film was a major success at the box office, earning over $636 million worldwide. Dean DeBlois, who co-created the original animated series and steered the first live-action film, has returned to helm, direct, and executive produce the sequel.